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# CNES at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Union Conference on space policy “Europe as a Global Space Player”

**CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall was at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Union Conference on space policy being held in Brussels on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 January on the theme ‘Europe as a Global Space Player’.**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual European Union Conference on space policy, under the high patronage of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, was opened Tuesday 12 January in Brussels by Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Thierry Mandon, France’s Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, and Johann-Dietrich Wörner, Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA).

During the first plenary session on the ‘Emergence of new paradigms of space markets’, Jean-Yves Le Gall spoke alongside Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair of the Executive Board of the German space agency DLR, and a panel of European space industry representatives.

In his speech, CNES’s President reminded delegates of the call he made at last year’s conference for the Commission to get more closely involved in making the strategic transition to New Space. He hailed the encouraging steps since taken in this direction and underlined the dual challenge that now faces spacefaring Europe in responding to the rapid growth in space activities in emerging nations, and adapting to the transformational shifts in the U.S. space sector now being driven by new entrants from the Internet sphere.

Jean-Yves Le Gall notably stated: “The combination of strong government backing and a winning entrepreneurial approach in emerging nations and the United States represents an undeniable challenge for spacefaring Europe. With the remarkable industrial, scientific and engineering heritage we have built up in 50 years working together, I firmly believe that we have the ability to adapt. Through strategic investments and a demand-driven approach, and by nurturing applications and innovation to reduce costs, Europe will remain a key player in the constantly evolving space sector.”

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