

France chairs 16th European Interparliamentary Space Conference on 'Space and Growth'

Chaired this year by France's interparliamentary space group (GPE), the plenary session of the 16th European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) is being held in Paris at the French National Assembly on 20-21 October. Opened by Geneviève Fioraso, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, and GPE chair Chantal Berthelot, the conference focused on 'space driving growth' and 'growth for space'.

After a first meeting at the Toulouse Space Centre on 14-15 April, the plenary session of the 16th EISC is being held at the French National Assembly. Opened by Geneviève Fioraso, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, and GPE and EISC chair Chantal Berthelot, ESA Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall, the conference brought together many leading dignitaries from the space sector to address growth issues.

The conference revolved around two key topics at three roundtable discussions on 'space and connectivity', 'space for Earth observation' and 'finding the best product', focusing on how to support and boost the space sector's growth in France and Europe.

CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall spoke at the opening of the conference: "Space is driving innovation to create jobs, as shown by the 16,000 people working in this sector in France, plus the 8,000 indirect jobs in French Guiana, and it is a profitable investment. Weather forecasting, television broadcasting and Internet access, geolocation, protecting humans from environmental hazards or better access to healthcare for those living in remote regions are just some of the applications of space that are constantly improving citizens' daily lives."

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