



## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **of the EURISY Conference on “The Impact of Satellite Technology on Maritime Security”**

The Prestige tanker accident off the Galician coast in November 2002 revealed the need for giving new and thorough consideration to the use of new technologies for disaster prevention, crisis management and maritime security and safety. At the invitation of EURISY, a conference was convened in Vigo, Galicia, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2003, bringing together authorities and experts concerned with maritime security and safety with experts in the application of space technologies.

The discussions of the 80 experts in sessions dealing with maritime operations, pollution, sustainable exploitation, safety and security focused on the following key issues:

- Public policy has to recognise that maritime transport and the exploitation of marine resources continue to increase with a related impact on the marine environment. Today, 90% of international trade is done by shipping. The sustainable use of marine resources is not assured. There is an urgent need for improved management of the sea and coastal zones.
- This enhances the importance of adequate, accurate and timely information for decision makers concerned with maritime safety and security including the sustainable use of marine resources.
- The present use of monitoring capabilities proves to be insufficient as evidenced by recent disasters in Europe (Erika, Prestige), North America and Asia. There is a need for further developing current capabilities with a view to their operationalisation.
- Space technologies contribute in multiple ways to these tasks, in particular through the use of navigation, communication and Earth observation. The European GALILEO and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiatives, guaranteeing access to timely, independent and accurate information are cornerstones for a pro-active European approach.
- The use of space technology can significantly contribute to the enforcement of international rules and European legislation and facilitates the updating of rule making policies.
- Improved access to and use of pertinent and timely information are needed at local, national, regional, European and global levels.

- Policies addressing the issues raised by this conference should recognise the interdependence of maritime safety and security in coastal zones with the broader agenda relating to the high seas.

The Conference addressed the following **conclusions and recommendations** to responsible decision makers of the European Union, its Member States, and of relevant international organisations:

1. Further development of an operational infrastructure for systematic monitoring and forecasting related to maritime safety and security,
  - requiring the provision of long-term, timely, integrated, user-friendly services;
  - assuring real-time access to data and integrating space observations with in-situ measurements and forecast models;
  - building on the better integration of existing capabilities;
  - ensuring continuity of observation systems.
2. Support for further research in data integration, modelling and sensor technology, moving towards operationality.
3. Development of an appropriate legal framework including legislation admitting space-based information in court and ensuring better law enforcement across national boundaries. Certified positioning will be an important tool in this respect.
4. Giving enhanced attention to institution-building and human capacity development with a view to promoting the necessary interface between the space and the maritime user communities, thus improving the mutual understanding of needs and solutions as well as cooperation.
5. The United Nations system should take a more pro-active role in addressing the institutional dimension of an enhanced use of space-based Earth observation for maritime safety and security.
6. The International Maritime Organisation and the United Nations as appropriate are urged to work towards the establishment of binding rules, which incorporate full use of space technologies for maritime safety and security.
7. The European Commission should develop legislation relating to the use of space technologies for maritime safety and security. Practical measures are needed to ensure that space technologies are incorporated in law enforcement and data acquired from space are used in the updating of respective norms.
8. The European Space Agency, jointly with the European Commission, should ensure that the requirements of maritime safety and security are incorporated in the GMES Implementation Plan.

Vigo, 3 July 2003