



## ***CHARTER OF THE EUROPEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY SPACE CONFERENCE (EISC)***

In 1999, the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC) was created as a tool for interparliamentary cooperation bringing together national parliamentary representatives with a particular interest in space affairs. The EISC Charter was adopted in 1999 and amended in 2006. In the present form, it was amended in 2011 by the Parliamentary Space Groups of Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom, which agreed upon the following charter:

### **Art. 1. Purpose**

The EISC provides an interparliamentary forum for analysing and debating the European space policy and major issues at stake in the European space sector. It aims at facilitating the information exchange on national and European space activities and the promotion of the mutual understanding of national space policies.

### **Art. 2. Membership**

The membership of the EISC is as follows:

- National parliaments of the member states of the European Union and/or of the European Space Agency that have created a parliamentary body dealing with space affairs are eligible for **full membership**.
- National parliaments of states not being full members of the European Union and/or the European Space Agency that have created a parliamentary body dealing with space affairs are eligible for **associate membership**.
- National parliaments of the member states of the European Union and/or of the European Space Agency that have not created a parliamentary body dealing with space affairs are eligible to become **observers**.

The full members of the EISC decide upon full membership, associate membership and observer status, based on an official application of the national parliament concerned. This request is made to the Presidency of the EISC, communicated to the full members and approved by all full members present at the following Annual Conference.

Associate members are generally entitled to attend and speak in sessions. Observers are entitled to attend sessions. At the discretion of the presidency/ the full members, sessions can be restricted to full members.

Guests can be invited from European institutions, other Parliaments as well as public and private stakeholders in the space sector.



### **Art. 3. Resolutions (scope)**

The EISC adopts resolutions on all matters related to the space field. These resolutions in no way bind national parliaments or prejudge their position. However, the participating members of parliament agree to communicate the adopted resolutions to their respective national parliament and government for consideration. The Presidency of the EISC communicates the resolutions to the relevant institutions on European level.

### **Art. 4. Resolutions (adoption)**

The resolutions of the EISC are adopted unanimously by the full members present. Associate members and observers present are invited to adhere to these resolutions, but cannot vote on the final text.

### **Art. 5. Presidency**

The EISC is chaired alternately by one of the full members. A presidency starts at 1 January and ends at 31 December of the same year. The current, previous and subsequent Presidencies form a trio. The previous and subsequent Presidencies provide consultation and support to the current presidency. The full members decide upon which national parliament will assume the presidency following the current trio.

### **Art. 6. Annual Conference and other meetings**

The EISC meets once a year during an annual conference. At the discretion of the acting presidency, colloquia can be organised dealing with particular subjects in the space field. A Heads of Delegation meeting, composed of the heads of delegation of the full members, meets at least once a year, during the annual conference. At the discretion of the acting presidency, more meetings can be organised.

### **Art. 7. Secretariat**

The secretariat of the EISC Presidency is held by the acting presidency. It is responsible for the organisation of meetings, the distribution of documents and the liaison between the different national secretariats of the parliamentary space groups. The Presidency is supported, at its discretion, by the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), Vienna, for organisational matters.

### **Art. 8. EISC languages**

The language of the host country as well as the working languages of ESA and the EU<sup>1</sup> are the languages of the Annual Conference. The Presidency provides translation into these languages at the annual conference. Translation into further languages and the language regime at colloquia are at the discretion of the Presidency. The resolutions of EISC and other written documents are elaborated and adopted in English.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently English, French and German