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Committee on Transport and Tourism

2011/2148(INI)

19.7.2011

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on 'towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens' (2011/2148(INI))

Rapporteur: Artur Zasada

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- 1. Considers that a space strategy for the European Union is necessary to ensure that space technology contributes fully to safer and more efficient traffic management and traffic control across all transport modes;
- 2. Recalls that the transport sector has a key role to play in achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and that sustainable growth cannot be achieved without an efficient transport sector;
- 3. Notes that the seven Space Councils to date have made only one passing reference to transport in Europe and that the significance of space policy for transport has not been given detailed consideration in the deliberations of the Space Council as reflected in its outcome of proceedings;
- 4. Stresses that Galileo and EGNOS are instrumental in the creation of a Single European Sky and for the further development of safe and cost effective air traffic management in Europe and therefore calls for setting an ambitious and firm timetable along with stable financing for implementing both programmes as a precondition for a timely launch of the Single European Sky, the latter being a vital strategic step towards furthering European integration and strengthening the European common market;
- 5. Underlines that Galileo and EGNOS are vital for efficient and environmentallysustainable road traffic management, road use fee collection systems, eCall and real time tracking systems and future digital tachographs;
- 6. Recalls the relevance of the GMES programme for the sustainable development of transport and transport safety, especially in the context of maritime transport and maritime surveillance;
- 7. Stresses the importance of European involvement in ensuring security in space via the European Space Situational Awareness System as well as in space exploration via the International Space Station, since both, protecting the critical European space infrastructure from the risk of collision with spacecraft or space debris and technology spill-over resulting from space exploration, could benefit transport sectors on Earth, especially aviation;