

REPORT
of Mr. S. Grigoriev, the Deputy of State Duma of Russian Federation, in the
International Workshop on GMES project

Dear Chairman!
Dear colleagues!
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all I want to thank the organizations of the Workshop for their invitation addressed us to take part in the today's meeting and for given possibility to speak for the audience.

Russian-European collaboration in space is performed on all areas of the space activities: manned programs, launching vehicles and rocket engines, Earth remote sensing, scientific space programs and etc.

And we are very interested in the further development of the mutually beneficial collaboration, in order to extend and expand of the interaction with European partners.

The Dialog "Russia - European Union" on cooperation in space is one of the tools, promoting defining of the specific areas of work and arranging of the most effective relations.

As you know, the corresponding Document was signed by Heads of the European Commission, European Space Agency and Federal Space Agency (Russian Federation).

The 2nd meeting of Control Council on the Dialog "Russia - European Union" on cooperation in space was performed in March 2007.

The meeting was devoted to consideration of the results of joint activity for period after 1st meeting (March, 2006) and also to consideration of plans of further activities of 7 Work Groups on various areas of space activities. The Groups were established in Framework of the Dialog, including the Group on Earth Remote Sensing (ERS). The Group had defines areas of joint works, including GMES program.

The plans of specified activities on period 2007-2008 were prepared.

It was fixed in the Joint Statement of the Federal Space Agency, European Commission and European Space Agency on development of the Dialog "Russia – EU" on collaboration in space area.

The joint Statement was signed on 21 March 2007 by Director General of the EU commission on business Heinz Surek, Head of European Space Agency Mr. J.- J. Dordain and Head of Federal Space Agency Anatoly Perminov.

As a priority goal on ERS for given period the establishment of the mechanism of the data exchange on the base of development of principles of its realization. The space information, received from the European satellite ENVISAT and Russian satellite "Resurs-DK" and also arrangement of joint activities in the GMES program.

The Plan of Work Group on ERS was developed. The plan provides cooperation with GMES in following areas:

Emergency management (floods, fires, geophysical catastrophes) and early warning on the disasters (for example with monitoring of the Earthquake predecessors);

Earth resources (forests and agriculture);

Monitoring of the ocean and marine resources (especially in regions of the Arctic, northern part of Pacific ocean and Black sea);

Condition of air environment in local and regional scales;

Global problems (atmosphere chemistry and composition, greenhouse gases, land tenure, ocean dynamics and etc.).

The specified proposals, related to the programs GMES and GEO should be defined according to the 2007-2008 Work plan. The proposals could be executed in Framework of 7th frame program (in part of sections "Space" and "Environment").

The workshop "Russia-EU" on ERS is planned on beginning of 2008 for studying possibilities of cooperation and search of partners in the area.

It is necessary to note that one of possible areas of joint collaboration in the framework of GMES program is "initiation of cooperation in development of joint approach to the high elliptical hydro- and meteorological systems designed for the Polar region monitoring.

We consider that the problem is very important both for Russia and Europe, as the Arctic region at present time is inaccessible for continuous observation with satellites of the international meteorological grouping, located on geostationary orbits. But the polar regions are "weather kitchen" for whole planet.

At taking into account significant experience of Russia in area of launch and operation of spacecraft on the high elliptical orbits such as "Molnia" (more than 100 launches) and accumulated reserve on their creation, Federal Space Agency had offered the initiative on creation of multipurpose space system "Arctica". The system will provide hydro- and meteorological monitoring of the Earth Arctic regions.

The offered space system with spacecraft, operating on the high elliptical orbits will provide practically continuous receipt of data on the atmosphere condition and heliogeophysical data in the polar areas of the near space. The data is extremely important for weather forecasting, especially in context of possible global warming.

Besides the system will provide online and valid data on ice condition in the seas of Arctic ocean, on flight conditions in the Arctic regions (cloudiness, winds, jets and etc), monitoring of disasters of anthropogenic and natural origin.

The initiative of Federal Space Agency was considered in 34 meeting of International coordination group on meteorological satellites in November, 2006 in Shanghai.

On recommendation of the meeting in framework of 7th session of the Board of Advisers on high level politics, including to the WMO structure the decision on the Target Work Group establishment was made.

The 1st Target Work Group meeting was performed in April, 2007 in Moscow. The Group had routed ways for further studying and possible

international cooperation at creation of the "Arctica" Space System. The Group will continue to work.

The initiative was also supported on the XV-th WMO Congress in May, 2007 in Geneva.

We think that attention of the High Audience to the problem will allow providing essential results in interests both of European Union and Russia.

We are sure, that our collaboration has significant potential for further development.

Using the case I want to inform that now we are considering a question on inclusion of the "Parliament day" into the Program of International Aerospace Saloon. I hope that just at the end of August we could see our colleagues on European Interparliament Space Conference in Zhukovsky town near Moscow, and the formal invitations would be provided in time.

In conclusion let me to wish full success for the Workshop!

Thank your for attention.