

# **International Relations**

## **Relations with EU Member States**

Following its signature of a framework cooperation agreement with the Agency in Athens on 17 January 2001, Greece is participating in three ESA Optional Programmes, namely ARTES, GSTP and GMES. Greece has on several occasions declared its intention to sign up to the ESA Convention.

Similarly, in preparation for its potential future accession to the ESA Convention, a Luxembourg – ESA day was organised to present the Agency and its activities; an ESA team made detailed presentations to a large audience and answered numerous questions.

## **Relations with Eastern and Central Europe**

During the year, the Czech Republic and Hungary finalised negotiations for their European Cooperating States Agreements with ESA. These Agreements will make it possible for these two countries to participate indirectly through the Plan for European Cooperating States in some of the Agency's programmes. In addition, the Polish authorities announced that their Parliament had ratified the ESA – Poland Framework Agreement.

## **Relations with Mediterranean Countries**

The negotiations for a framework Cooperation Agreement with Turkey continued. It foresees facilitating the exchange of scientists and engineers, the exchange of information, and the joint organisation of symposia, conferences and educational activities. ESA astronaut Thomas Reiter was invited to talk to Turkish students as part of their annual Science and Education Festival.

Contracts for hosting EGNOS Reference and Integrity Monitoring Stations (RIMS) have been negotiated with Turkey and Tunisia.

## **Relations with Space-Faring Countries**

### **Canada**

On the occasion of the ESA Council (12/13 June) held for the first time in Canada, at the Canadian Space Agency, CSA's new President and ESA's Director General signed two Implementing Arrangements for Canada's participation in GMES and in the new Aurora exploratory programme.

### **United States**

The Agency pursued its cooperation with the United States in areas of mutual interest. Having reviewed progress on the International Space Station, ESA and the other Partner agencies agreed on plans of action for the selection of an ISS final configuration. The 11 European signatories of the ISS Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) expressed their concerns and reiterated their expectation that all Partners would meet their obligations, leading to the full deployment of the Station as defined in the IGA with a crew of seven and a full utilisation potential. ESA and NASA continued their cooperation on various Space Science projects: Ulysses, SOHO, Cassini/Huygens, Cluster-II, the Hubble Space Telescope, the J. Webb Space Telescope and Integral. The two Agencies concluded Memoranda of Understanding covering their cooperation in the ESA Rosetta and Mars Express missions. ESA, NASA and NOAA continued to cooperate bilaterally and on a multilateral basis in the field of Earth observation, not least in the framework of the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS), which ESA chaired in 2002.

### **Russian Federation**

The ESA Council authorised the Director General to sign the new Framework Agreement on space cooperation between ESA and the Government of the Russian Federation. ESA and the Russian authorities worked together on multilateral and bilateral International Space Station (ISS) matters.



The opening ceremony of ACRS 2002 in Kathmandu in the presence of the Crown Prince of Nepal

Based on the ESA-Rosaviakosmos Framework Agreement regarding the provision of Russian ISS flight opportunities, two ESA astronauts were flown to the Space Station on Soyuz Taxi Flights in 2002. ESA and Rosaviakosmos intensively discussed the possibility of joint developments in the field of future launchers and related preparatory activities, as well as the use and adaptation of the ESA and CNES/CSG facilities required for the exploitation of the Russian Soyuz-ST launcher from Kourou. ESA's Integral scientific satellite was put into orbit by a Proton launcher in October. Euro-Russian technical discussions on satellite-navigation issues were resumed in the autumn. Contacts also took place between ESA and Rosaviakosmos on possible cooperation in the area of robotic and human planetary exploration.

### Japan

The 27th ESA/Japan Annual Meeting was held at ESA Headquarters on 1-2 October. In view of the current restructuring of the Japanese space entities, NASDA and ESA agreed to continue their dialogue within the Task Force for Future Cooperation – established in 2001 – to identify cooperation projects for the next 10 years. Progress was made in 2002 in the formalisation of already identified fields of co-operation, particularly in space science (e.g. Japanese contributions to ESA's BepiColombo mission, ESA's contribution to the Japanese Astro-F mission, co-ordination between ESA's Mars Express

mission and Japan's Nozomi Mars mission, etc.) and Earth observation (joint Earth Care mission aimed at studying Earth radiation, clouds and atmospheric aerosols). Other consultations with Japanese entities took place within such multilateral frameworks as the ISS Partnership, the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS) and the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Space Science (IACG).

### China

Following increasing cooperation with China in recent years, ESA and the Chinese Government, through its national space agency, negotiated a draft framework cooperation Agreement. This Agreement highlights space science, Earth-observation applications, telecommunications and radio navigation, microgravity research, spacecraft and space systems as possible areas of future cooperation between ESA and China.

### Relations with Emerging Space Powers/Countries

#### India

ESA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) renewed their framework Agreement during the year, and since its signature a thorough analysis has been made of the areas that are of common interest and where the two sides could cooperate. So far, it has been agreed to discuss the possibilities of cooperating in the field of space science and Earth-observation applications.

**Latin America**

ESA signed framework cooperation Agreements with the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Paris on 1 February, and with the Government of the Argentine Republic on 11 March. The Argentinean space agency CONAE gave its full support (administrative and logistical) to ESA and its Russian contractor for the installation of a Mobile Measurement Station to follow the Integral launch. CONAE has officially communicated its interest in joining the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural and Technological Disasters, of which ESA is a founding member.

**South-East Asia**

During 2002, ESA continued to concentrate its efforts on regional activities and responded to requests received in the context of Programme Directorate activities. The Agency focused in particular on cooperative activities with ASEAN nations where ESA's involvement could also benefit European industry, such as attending the 5th Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications.

ESA also had a stand at the 23rd Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ARCS 2002), which took place in Kathmandu in November, featuring Envisat, Earth-observation applications, and EduSpace.

ESA also participated in the Pacific-Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC).

**Pacific and Oceania**

An Implementing Arrangement with the Australian Government concerning the new ESA facility at New Norcia was signed in December, covering use of the deep-space antenna for the tracking of the Rosetta and Mars Express spacecraft.

**Relations with the United Nations**

Efforts were dedicated to implementing several of the recommendations of the Third UN Conference on Space Exploration (UNISPACE-III), in particular through ESA support to the UN's Programme on Space Applications. The Agency participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August in Johannesburg, 10 years

after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The WSSD formally recognised the importance of space technology in supporting sustainable development. ESA also supported several UN workshops addressing space issues, including the Regional Workshops on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management for Asia and the Pacific, in Addis Ababa in July and in Bangkok in November. ESA presented the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters and the UNOSAT project, a UN Institute for Training and Research initiative executed by the UN's Office for Project Services in partnership with CNES, CERN and ESA, aimed at universalising access to satellite imagery via the Internet and multimedia tools in the domains of disaster management, risk prevention, peace-keeping operations, environment rehabilitation, post-conflict reconstruction and social and economic development.



**UNESCO**

In December, the ESA Council approved an Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO covering the use of space technology to support the World Heritage Convention. A pilot project was initiated, as a joint effort by UNESCO and ESA, to monitor the gorilla habitat in Central/East Africa (SOGHA project). It is likely to be expanded in the future to cover selected World Heritage sites, both natural and cultural.

**EuroControl**

A five-year renewable ESA – EuroControl Cooperation Agreement was signed in July in Brussels. It established a general framework for mutual cooperation and support in the use of space technology for civil-aviation purposes in areas of common interest such as satellite navigation, telecommunications and the environment.