

**Declaration from Loyola De Palacio
(vice president of the European Commission)**

OREGIN Workshop – Brussels, 27 February 2001

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to close this important Working day. I observe effectively that GALILEO has drained many participants to this meeting. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate and thank OREGIN for having established this platform for discussion putting together the most motivated industrial actors.

One of my major preoccupations is indeed to enable an effective participation for each sector concerned by the program.

- First of all, GALILEO cannot be launched without a strong political decision to be taken in support of it. It is essential to have a strong political support at the highest level to the program. As you know some member states have adopted during the December transport council quite different position from those taken at the beginning of the project. In particular, some of them have asked for a clear participation of the private sector from now on, without waiting for the validation phase. In this context, I have therefore decided to try to answer all members states interrogations, which do not at all concern the know-how of the European industry in the relevant technology. It is however necessary to set up the right environment required to have a successful program.

The Commission is therefore reflecting on new hypothesis for:

- establishing a management structure;
 - agreeing on the risks to be shared with the private sector;
 - clarifying how national administrations will make use of the GALILEO public regulated services.
- Secondly, GALILEO is seen as a program implementing the space technology. However, it is essential for the final success of the whole programme to get a direct positive acknowledgement by users and service providers on the benefits they can get from this new technology and its applications. If space should be perceived as too far from them, this would represent a possible risk for the program. The Commission must therefore help users and service providers to be associated to the program from the very beginning.

Too many space projects remain just “projects”. GALILEO must become an infrastructure bringing services to be fully integrated in our daily life, from which all the Europeans should benefit. This is why the Commission has initiated a wide scale consultation of the potential intermediate and end users before launching the program.

Let's have a look to the perspectives of GALILEO.

- In financial terms, the investment in GALILEO would be more or less equivalent to the investment needed to build 150 km of high speed rail network. As far as employment is concerned, it is estimated that the project and related applications would generate 140 000 jobs.
- At the same time, GALILEO represents an infrastructure with a global dimension comparable with Internet. In our common history, Galileo would be an original contribution to foster strategic independence as well as social and economic modernisation of the European Union. We, today, see very important application proliferation making use of that network. GALILEO will provide a strategic synchronisation network eligible for a scope of applications which extent is yet widely open.

No doubt GALILEO offers capacity for substantial expansion in a variety of fields such as agriculture, environment, energy or transport. Regarding this latter example, particularly important to me, very accurate precision services offered and available at global level will enable a genuine revolution of the transport services currently constrained by terrestrial means

I would like for instance to make reference to the potential which could emanate from a strong synergy between the new generation of mobile communication systems (UMTS) and a reliable positioning infrastructure available everywhere, including indoor, like the Galileo we want to realize. I was told that some important industrial actors have already set up dedicated research centres for GALILEO. This is the way we should go!

However it is clear, the Commission cannot act alone or with the sole European Space Agency. It is needed to establish as soon as possible an effective synergy with the most committed actors from the private sector. There is a need to set up an appropriate legal structure to shelter this essential association.

It is a fact that I have already received nine letters testifying the willingness of some European enterprises to become actors in a cooperation scheme. The Swedish Presidency of the European Union has also actively contributed to make significative progress in this matter.

Those efforts will impact on the political decision to be taken in the coming months. I very much appreciate to see amongst you today Member States representatives that will at the end have an essential role in taking the definitive decision to launch the next phase of the program. However, it is clear that in front of the new positions expressed recently by some member States, the Commission will have to show flexibility and elaborate a scheme different from the one presented in December. I am committed to the Galileo project and I will do my part of the work, but I need a clear commitment from the industry, from each of you, to take on board the private contribution to the project requested from some member States. I am sure together we will succeed in getting Galileo become the proud of the high technology european industry.

But it must be clear, we should also be quick, the program cannot wait any further.

First, the agenda in the radionavigation field is well known. The International Telecommunication Union will indeed organise in 2003 a New World Radiocommunication Conference in order to definitively assign the spectrum required for GALILEO.

(In this context it is also essential to have soon successful bilateral negotiations respectively with the American and the Russian governments in order to organise the access to the spectrum. Those negotiations are important to secure the spectrum which might be required by other users, such as the telecommunication operators).

Second, it is important to have Galileo operative when a market of application is still available or to be created. For example we know the recent positive statement made by the Airspace users, which recognise the satellite-based navigation technology as a possible solution if there are two independent constellations such as GPS and GALILEO.

We know as well that GALILEO can play an important role in the EU initiative for the establishment of the European Single Sky, and on the implementation of the proposals I have made to the last Transport Council concerning the maritime safety.

I would like to conclude thanking you for the effort you have undertaken during the definition phase to design possible scenarios of cooperation.

I can only encourage you to involve yourselves even more, to take even more concrete commitments and initiatives in this high technology sector. Galileo brings about considerable growth potential for the European industry, which must remain competitive in this aggressive globalisation process.

Be sure that the Commission will remain fully devoted to ensure the successful launch of Galileo.

Thank you for your attention.