Transport applications of the Global Navigation Satellite Systems - short and medium term EU policy

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on transport applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (short-and medium-term EU policy) in response to the Commission communication on an Action Plan on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Applications.

The resolution welcomes the Commission communication and the series of specific sectoral, regulatory and horizontal actions proposed therein. Parliament agrees with the Commission that a targeted action plan is, at this point, the best option for giving a further impetus to the development and application of EGNOS and Galileo, particularly in the transport field. Members stress that satellite navigation systems should **ensure interoperability** between different systems (including conventional systems) and should also **allow intermodal use** in both passenger and freight transport services.

Parliament endorses the view that EGNOS and Galileo can make an important contribution to **road traffic management** and that an awareness campaign in that sector is required in order to increase the use made of the opportunities it provides in relation to fee collection, *eCall*, online booking of safe parking sites for trucks, and real-time tracking to contribute to safer and more environmentally friendly road transport.

Regretting that all of the European Union is not at this time covered by EGNOS, Members call for **EGNOS system coverage to be extended to southern, eastern and south-eastern Europe** as a matter of priority, so as to enable the system to be used throughout Europe in every transport sector, and stress the importance of ensuring that its coverage extends to both the MEDA countries and the Middle East and Africa.

Of the 15 sectoral actions included in the Action Plan, 9 have an immediate and important transport application. The Commission is called upon to:

- ensure swift certification of EGNOS for **civil aviation** through the competent authorities;
- bring forward the necessary regulatory proposals to deliver GNSS added value for safety in all forms of transport, particularly on the **roads**, and to help improve freight transport efficiency;
- **intensify industrial cooperation with non-EU countries** with a view to promoting the development and interoperability of EGNOS and Galileo applications and services;
- make a careful appraisal of the need to amend existing legislation on **digital tachographs** in order to ensure that the opportunities for positioning and speed information offered by GNSS are used appropriately;
- take steps to increase awareness and improve knowledge of possible GNSS applications in the **maritime and inland waterway sectors**;
- efficiently implement the **strong awareness-raising measures** set out in the Action Plan, in order to secure the extensive use of EGNOS in Europe;
- examine what **data protection** concerns might arise with the use of EGNOS applications and services and to do all it can to dispel these.

The resolution insists that the Commission should propose, in the context of the budgetary procedure and the future multiannual financial framework (MFF), steps to **ensure adequate levels of funding** for GNSS research and development, as well as for implementation. It renews its call, regarding both this specific

project and similar projects, such as the TEN-Ts, for the Commission to submit a **multiannual financing** proposal going beyond the period of the MFF, in order to provide a stable and reliable financial framework for more ambitious European projects whose scope exceeds the present bounds.

Parliament calls on the Commission to inform Parliament how the annual maintenance cost, estimated at EUR 800 million, will be financed once Galileo has become operational.

The Commission is also invited to come forward with a **comprehensive funding strategy** which in addition to adequate EU and Member State contributions, could include, inter alia, coordinated tax incentives, simplified grant application procedures, and arrangements that could channel venture capital to SMEs and facilitate the development and marketing of EGNOS and Galileo applications, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund.

Lastly, the resolution regrets that the shortage of funds allocated to research and innovation for applications based on EGNOS or Galileo is considerably delaying technological progress and the growth of industrial capacity, as well as environmentally effective implementation, in the European Union. It therefore urges the Commission to introduce arrangements enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to **gain access to funding more readily**.