

## Galileo programme

Resolution of the Infrastructures Commission  
adopted by the Central Council (Brussels - November 2003)

In February 1999 the EU Commission proposed the development of a new satellite navigation constellation, combined with appropriate terrestrial infrastructure, which would be an open, global system, fully compatible with the American GPS (Global Positioning System) but independent from it: GALILEO. From the beginning, the Infrastructures Commission of ELEC embraced GALILEO as a truly European project in its scope that, in addition to its foreseeable economic and technological benefits, had the potential of becoming a unifying factor in an enlarged Europe as well as a significant asset for the development of Trans-European Networks.

Indeed, on three previous occasions (14 February 2001, 11 March 2002 and 4 March 2003), ELEC expressed its whole-hearted support for GALILEO by writing letters to European governments and to the EU Commission and Parliament at times when crucial decisions for its development were about to be taken by the Council. Now that a "Joint Undertaking" based on article 171 of the Treaty is in place for the development phase, that political disputes over funding levels and industrial participation have been settled, and that work is already under way on the first two Galileo satellites, ELEC wishes to call attention to the following three aspects, crucial for achieving GALILEO's full potential.

- 1.** First ELEC has observed with great satisfaction that GALILEO can be not only a force for unification inside Europe but also a potent factor of attraction for the rest of the world, as several countries from other continents - e.g. China, India, Israel, and Canada - have expressed a strong interest in participating in the project. Indeed, last October China already signed with the EU an agreement that commits it to invest about €200m in Galileo. In this connection ELEC underlines the need to further the cooperation of GALILEO with GPS and with the Russian GLONASS system and to intensify the search for synergies between the three systems that would make this project even more attractive.
- 2.** Secondly ELEC stresses that additional work needs to be done on the potential applications of Galileo in many fields of civilian life and on the technological developments that are necessary to underpin them and make them economically profitable.
- 3.** Last but not least, ELEC renews its call for innovative formulas of financing the development of GALILEO by combining public and private funds. Indeed, it is of the opinion that the GALILEO project is the perfect kind of programme for applying the PPP (Public Private Partnership) concept, and that its utilization for the development of GALILEO might serve as an example for the funding of other big European infrastructure projects in the future as proposed by the EU Commission in its October 1 list of priority TEN-T projects. ELEC calls upon the Member States and the European banking community to show an open spirit on this matter and to participate actively in the search for suitable financial instruments.

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