

# **SPACE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN GREECE\***

***N.K.SPYROU***

Astronomy Department, Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki,  
Thessaloniki, Macedonia, (Hellas) Greece

***\*Opening Address at the Sixth International  
Conference of Aerospace Medicine, 22-26 September  
2010, Thessaloniki, Greece***

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I wish to thank the Chairwoman of the Scientific and Organizing Committee, Dr Chrysoula Papadelis, for asking me to participate in this Conference and to address the Conference.**

**As the National Delegate of Greece, currently, to the European Space Agency (ESA)/ Directorate “Human Spaceflight, Microgravity, and Exploration”, and, after more than five years of useful experience with ESA matters, I fully realize the necessity and usefulness for our country of conferences like the present Conference .**

**In my, though as an astronomer’s, opinion, such a Conference is necessary, generally, for various reasons cited in the programme, but, mainly, for informing the public on the importance of the notion “Space” in improving, in many ways, our every-day life on Earth. This is especially**

**significant, because, “Space”, like not too many ones, is really an interdisciplinary endeavor.**

**We all know that the European Space Laboratory “Columbus”, already docked with the International Space Station till, at least, 2020, is a manifestation of the way “Space” is entering our lives, and is changing the old beliefs and the old “status quo” in research, education, technology and industry.**

**I am sure that such a change will show up as the outcome of the talks and round tables of the Conference’s analytical programme.**

**I am confident that the Conference can and will serve another important objective, namely, it will contribute, in a really decisive way, towards the national effort for the success of the official joining of Greece to the European Space Agency.**

**In the long run, this must be our final objective, and, really, I look forward to the fulfillment of this objective.**

**Given the binary character of the Conference, national and international, I, as a member of the Scientific and Organizing Committee, wish to personally thank the organizers and sponsors of this meeting, wishing to them success and to all the participants a happy stay in the city of Thessaloniki and in the broader area of Macedonia, Greece.**

**I shall finish this address mentioning a personal experience with our speaker Frank de Winne. A few months ago, Frank participated in the PB-HME, at ESTEC (in Noordwijk, The Netherlands) for presenting his experience and results during his six-month spaceflight at the ISS (as the first European astronaut-Commander of the**

ISS). At the end, I asked Frank if, after such a spaceflight and experiences, he had a message to send to the young people. His answer was “They should dream”, exactly as it is shown on the wall in this hall “If you can dream it, you can do it”.

**Thank you!!!**

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Νικόλαος Κ. Σπύρου  
Καθηγητής Αστρονομίας ΑΠΘ

Εθνικός Εκπρόσωπος ESA/PB-HME