

CZECH REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
Rádek Šmerda  
Minister

Prague 16 th May 2011  
Ref: 51/2011-710-ESA/1

Dear Director General,

I would like to use this opportunity to establish a working relationship between the European Space Agency and the Czech Ministry of Transport. Following the decision of the Czech Government on 20 April 2011, the Ministry of Transport assumed overall responsibility for the ESA activities in the Czech Republic.

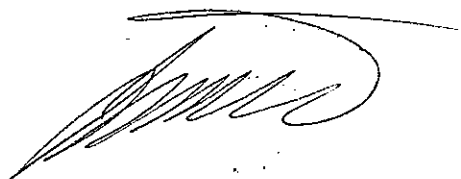
I assure you that space programmes and activities are of the highest priority for me and that the Czech Government itself continues to promote them with great alacrity. The Czech Republic understands that space projects are of great value to our economy and science. We are fully committed to the further development of space projects in our country in order to attain our goal of transforming the Czech Republic into a first-rate knowledge-based economy. To that end, we will strive to make every effort possible to create a favourable environment for space research and industry to flourish in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Government has recently designated the Czech Ministry of Transport as a main coordinating body for all space programmes in the Czech Republic. For this purpose, I have established the Coordination Council for Space Activities, which will gather representatives of all relevant Czech ministries, especially the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This will allow us to implement our space strategy in a coordinated and effective manner.

I believe that this new arrangement will make it possible for an effective and seamless cooperation. Last but not least, I hope this will ensure that the Czech Republic will become a strong and trusted partner to the ESA in implementing projects of mutual interest.

Finally, I would like to propose a meeting with you to discuss our space priorities in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JJ Dordain', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned in the center-right of the page.

Mr. Jean-Jacques Dordain  
Director General  
European Space Agency  
8-10 rue Mario Nikis  
75738 Paris Cedex 15  
FRANCE