

DRAFT
General Assembly 2019
Tuesday, 14th May, 2019 | 10.00 – 14.30,
Venue: European Committee of the Regions
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Member Name	Representative
Full Members:	
Apulia	President Michele Emiliano
Azores	Mr Francisco Wallenstein-Macedo
Baden Württemberg	Mr Wolfgang Wolf
Basilicata	Mr Lucio Bernardini Papalia
Bavaria	Ms Bärbel Deisting
Bremen	Ms Ellen Horstmann
Brittany	Mr Quentin Coulombier
East Midlands	Mr Mark Lester
Hesse	Ms Perdita De Buhr
Lombardy	Minister Fabrizio Sala
Madrid	Mr Eugenio Fontan
Mazovia	Mr Andrzej Perkowski
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	Mr Antoine Videau
Occitanie	Ms Marie Vageois
Piedmont	Mr Vincenzo Zezza
Podkarpackie	Marshal Ortyl Wladyslaw
South Holland	Ms Renate Beausoleil
Tuscany	Mr. Enrico Mayrhofer
Veneto	Mr Silvano De Zorzi
Wallonia	Mr Michel Stassart
Associate Members:	
AvioSpace	Mr Luca Angelantoni
Consorzio TeRN	Mr Lucio Bernardini Papalia
CNES	Mr Jean-Claude Bénech
CNR	Mr Roberto Pini
GIS BreTel	Mr Nicolas Bellec
Leonardo Company	Mr Tiziano Mazzoni
Thales Alenia	Ms Laura Gatti

(Annex I: Agenda)

Opening by Michele Emiliano, NEREUS President

President Michele Emiliano opened the 2019 General Assembly with a welcome speech. He warmly thanked Marshal Ortyl Wladyslaw of Podkarpackie region for hosting the 2019 General Assembly at the European Committee of Regions.

He emphasized that his region, Apulia has been an active member of NEREUS and has delivered a proven track record of space activities recognising that space (aerospace) sector is central for the future economic and social development and long-term investments. Then he continued by citing some of the goals accomplished during his presidency at NEREUS: i) through political dialogue, a greater visibility of the network towards the EU institutions and the European Space Agency achieved ii) a common strategic framework agreed on the 10th anniversary of NEREUS by signing a joint declaration on the key political priorities for

2018-2020, iii) call for the regional dimension in space programmes to support regional stakeholder requests iv) develop a Memorandum of Understanding with ESA and consolidate the partnership in promoting the Earth Observation system (the member regions engaged with Members of the European Parliament on the importance of the system during the debate on the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027), v) interregional collaboration has been strengthened through a number of seminars, workshops and networking activities and vi) the success of network's involvement to many projects such as CoRdiNet, EO4GEO, Copernicus-Users-Uptake.

In view of challenges such as the uncertain landscape of UK's exit from the EU, the debate on the future of the Union, the European elections ahead and the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework, the role of citizens is to be redefined, he added. Citizen's involvement leverages the importance of the local and regional element highlighting the leading role of regions, provinces and cities in Europe. With respect to this, the space sector plays an important role for answering a wide range of challenges at global and local level. EU space technologies are now reaching a full operational stage contributing to Europe's independence, encouraging industrial cooperation and investing in research, innovation and technology and correspond to the needs of every user. On this basis, he welcomed the new Space programme and the increased funding of 16 billion euros while recognising the great contribution of the development funds at the same time.

NEREUS acts in a global, expanding and challenging sector where the goal of regions is to gain importance and by establishing relationships in a European and international context. Following this, he concluded that he will remain at the side of the Network, through the Apulian candidate for the NEREUS-Management (Prof. Vito Albino) and also personally, as a political representative of the Apulia Region and member of the European Committee of the Regions. The strong participation of political representatives from the regions who include a scientific approach in their strategies are the elements that will make NEREUS a stronger network in the future. In view of the end of the Management Board mandate and the beginning of a new 2-year period, he greeted and thanked all candidates willing to become a member of the new NEREUS Board.

➤ **Impulse Talk on new Space Equity Fund** by Maria Vittoria D' Inzeo, European Commission:

After presenting an enumeration of objectives for the new EU space strategy and main actions in supporting a new space economy, Ms D'Inzeo presented the study carried out by the European Investment Advisory Hub aiming at analysing how public funds in the EU could be deployed to attract and promote private investment achieving also adequate returns. She listed some of the study's findings:

- Long tradition of the EU Space sector on procurement and grant schemes;
- Growing interest from the European VC (Venture Capital) community to invest in space with the emergence of first space tech focused funds;
- Access to finance opportunities in Europe are not many and not very developed posing a series of challenges given the New Space trends such as increased competition, reduced cost of accessing and using space, new revolutionary business models etc.

Ms D' Inzeo briefly summarised the overall assessment of this study showcasing the different parts of the space value chain:

- B2C (Business-to-Consumer) models or short implementation timespan come with lower risk compared to B2B (Business-to Business) or long implementation lifespan;
- Positive prospect for future development of business market with growing investment from private sources, however some market segments and business models still remain riskier than others due to the high technological cost and regulatory uncertainty among other things;
- a relatively strong public funding landscape for companies especially in the early stages of research and innovation development through grants from EU and ESA programmes;
- a gap for funding regarding the commercialisation and growth phases from the private side

Following the last point, she underlined that the main features of the space equity fund has a strong finance focus:

- the overall size: 111 million (coming from: EFSI¹+EC+EIF²) which enable a portfolio of 4 to 6 fund investments and co-investments in space related technologies;
- the stage focus: early stage, expansion and growth stage so it is demand-driven;
- innovative SMEs with new products/ services both from the upstream and downstream sector.

She then broke down this innovation funding into 4 investment modalities:

- the first model uses a funding coming from H2020, EFSI and EIF which concerns space companies and projects;
- the second and third model operate in a similar way except in the case of a general VCI fund. There the second model concerns beneficiaries from both space companies and non-space companies (for example, digital projects) while the third model concerns beneficiaries' from space projects and companies. The fourth model is similar to the first and the second model but it will also include the intervention of NPI.

At the end, she concluded that space has been identified in the next MFF as an investment area for sustainable infrastructure research, innovation and digitalization, SMES, social investment and skills.

➤ **Impulse talk on ESA Business Applications programme** by Roberto Cossu, European Space Agency

Mr Cossu specified the broad use of space applications (data, services and technologies) in the upstream and downstream sector which can be used for a variety of fields such as education, agriculture, aviation and marine. He then indicated some of the socio-economic benefits including innovation, investment leverage, jobs and value creation.

According to this, he highlighted that ESA Business applications and ESA BIC (Business Incubation Centre) solutions can provide support to start-ups, SMEs and space companies and help them deriving the benefits from the sector. Mr Cossu explained that this support is funnelled into three main pillars:

- ESA BICs support the creation of the company/start-up by giving 50k funding and office space facilities , network of start-ups and using the ESA brand for visibility among others;
- Business applications concern established SMES but also larger companies providing zero equity funding from 60k-2k and access to private funding among other benefits;
- Innovation partners network put together the space industry with non-space industry. As a result space technology can be used also in non-space industry.

Mr Cossu specified that one of the added values of the programme is the partnership between ESA and private investors who can then relate to the companies. This will help the latter to leverage the funding also from the private side. This investment private network is supported through forums and trainings.

He encouraged the regions to join this beneficial programme and participate in Smart Space: ESA Business Applications Annual Conference organized on 3-5 June in Toulouse, France with lots of opportunities for networking.

Ms Ayazi opened the floor for questions.

Ms Gatti (Thales Alenia) asked how ESA approaches the issue of IPR.

Mr Cossu replied that it remains with the company which proposed the project.

Professor Lester (University of Leicester) asked how ESA selects the thematic areas in the proposed applications, especially in the start of the project process.

Mr Cossu replied that usually ESA takes into consideration the current landscape of market analysis and the support of ambassadors in the regions and then they use this information to select opportunities. However, he added, it is usually that the companies propose themselves the ideas and the thematic areas.

Ms Chrysaki (NEREUS communication officer) asked what are the criteria for selecting this private investors network.

¹ European Fund for Strategic Investments

² European Investment Fund

Mr Cossu noted that this network is indeed growing increasingly however he does not have the information and he promised to provide NEREUS community with the proper contacts to answer this question.

“ESA-BIC”-Session: Regions share their experiences (Podkarpackie, Mazovia, Hesse, Bavaria, Brittany, Madrid, Wallonia and others)

- **Bärbel Deisting** (Bavaria): Ms Baerbel Deisting is the ambassador for the German space application business. The first ESA-BIC centre was set up in Bavaria and it has incubated more than 150 start-ups and supported more than 200 jobs with an annual turn-over of 150 million and 204 million venture capital. She reported that the feedback received from these companies is quite positive. In addition to this, the cooperation with German ESA Technology Brokers ESA enabled 50% technology transfers from space to other sectors in Bavaria indicating how successful this programme is.
- **Jean-Claude Benech** (CNES-Toulouse): Mr Benech explained that ESA-BIC in South and North France is a driving force on the value chain across different sectors, industry and services. The programme initiated the launch of more than 70 startups, the creation of 368 jobs and a 18.8 million euros in turnover among others at the end of 2017.
- **Quentin Coulombier** (Brittany): ESA-BIC is quite new in North France and located in 6 regions (2018). Space is part of the S3 in maritime, telecommunication and environment axes. For this reason it is quite important to source space companies which are not aware they are space connected. The ESA-BIC programme is a helpful tool to identify this challenge and therefore the region wishes to remain active in NEREUS.
- **Andrzej Perkowski** (Mazovia): Mr Perkowski indicated that the space sector in Mazovia is interdisciplinary with a lots of companies and start-ups dealing with areas such as robotics and telecommunications. The ESA-BIC programme in Poland offers the opportunity to strengthen the space sector in regions with projects implemented by start-ups and increase the network of partners. He then highlighted that the support and interaction with other NEREUS regions hosting ESA-BICs is fundamental to achieve better results.
- **Michał Marchewka** (Podkarpackie): Mr. Marchewka referred to an enumeration of region’s strengths related to the space sector such as the strong and well-developed aviation sector. He then shared region’s experience with the ESA-BIC programme (investors, incubation process for high technology start-up, etc) and the expectations from the development of the programme.
- **Carlos Romero** (Madrid): Mr Romero underlined that more than 700 start-ups have been supported making Madrid the best place for start-ups in technology. Being an important region for the space industry (Madrid holds the 92% of Spanish space industry) with many companies and national centres, it successfully promotes space entrepreneurship for start-ups. ESA-BIC is the tool to promote this interaction among all these actors and increase revenues. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the programme and to NEREUS.
- **Perdita de Buhr** (Hessen): Ms de Buhr mentioned that the ESA-BIC in Hesse and Baden-Württemberg supported 100 companies (from various domains) and more than 500 jobs were created with an increasing trend. One of the added values of the programme is the provision of a technical support through a network of ESA and cesah³ experts collaborating with regional partners.
- **Michel Stassart** (Wallonia): Mr Stassart recalled the first incubator in Belgium dedicated to support the creation of start-ups using space technologies (WSL-Wallonia Space Logistics, 1999). In 2012 ESA-BIC Wallonie was based there following the creation of a new space tool ‘Galaxia innovation’ to speed up the creation of start-ups based on the best competences of the sector. In view of the NewSpace objectives, they proposed the regional government to reserve a fund of 20 million euros for space activities and use part of these funds to new start-ups who have reach TRL6⁴ and CRL⁵6 minimum.

³ Das Centrum für Satellitennavigation Hessen

⁴ technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

⁵ Countermeasure Readiness Level

Impulse Interventions by:

South Holland on their experience “Setting up of the Noordwijk Space Campus” by Renate Beausoleil, Province South Holland

Ms Beausoleil presented the Space Campus Noordwijk which is comprised by ESA-ESTEC⁶, Galileo reference centre and a space business innovation centre. It is supported by national-regional-local governments. The aim of the Space Campus is to:

- strengthen the interaction between ESA-ESTEC and its environment (80% of the activities are situated there);
- create more innovative business and technological development around ESA-ESTEC and
- strengthen the economic appeal of the region.

Ms Beausoleil mentioned that the government funds (25 million euros) aim at stimulating private funding for the further development of the Campus. There will be also many new facilities planned including the ground station for Earth Observation Data Applications and innovation network, NEOC which is an initiative more connected to NEREUS objectives. She finally referred to the creation of other ambitious business locations at the Space Business Park.

Technologies from Space Exploration by Laura Gatti, Thales Alenia Space and NEREUS-WG Technologies from Space Exploration

Ms Gatti explained the commercial aspects of space exploration that involves start-ups, institutes and universities. In view of the new global challenges, the NewSpace economy seems to be defined: a shift of paradigm with different and new actors in the global landscape, new technologies and an increasing number of space commercial initiatives. The new era of space commercialization has the potential to foster innovation and boost job opportunities.

Regions can benefit from space exploration activities and she used the following three examples:

- Space Rider space transportation system developed by ESA which aims at carrying several experiments to space, land on Earth with its payload and prepare for the next mission. The second part of the project will be devoted in commercial flights carrying out experiments quicker and less costly. Piedmont region holds a prime contractor role with Space Rider embarking also other non-European actors like Nanoracks, a US company which opened a branch in the region.
- Space tourism is another space exploration activity. The development of the spaceport in Grottaglie is created to host space tourists and it is supported by Apulia and Piedmont regions. The mission control center, the ground segment and the training will be supplied by US company Virgin Galactics and ALTEC from Piedmont region.
- Several other Italian regions are involved in orbit servicing activities (such as satellite refuelling) supported by ESA.
- Mining asteroids might still be far away from its realization, however is a way to produce advanced technical equipment where start-ups can get involved.

Ms Gatti concluded addressing the need to act now and think out of the box in order to establish a common vision towards Space 4.0.

Network affairs:

Outlook on the future positioning of the network 2019/2020 by Baerbel Deisting, NEREUS Vice-President

⁶ European Space Research and Technology Centre

(Annex II:PPT Bärbel Deisting)

Ms. Bärbel Deisting took the floor to give an overview of key elements with respect to the political dialogue and an outlook of 2020. After presenting network's relations with its main strategic partners regarding its advocacy activities, she highlighted that the political dialogue is a fundamental part of NEREUS strategy as space is a horizontal topic concerning all EU policies. For this reason, she expressively mentioned that the network aims at:

- strengthening the relation with strategic partners;
- monitoring EU policy developments;
- initiating discussions within the member regions and
- highlighting members point of view ensuring that there is a strong voice of EU regions.

NEREUS has been a point of reference and a cooperation partner and therefore it has been invited to experts groups at ESA and EU level. She explicitly underlined the challenge not only to maintain this expertise but also to expand it in the future. To see that happening it is necessary to agree on core topics for the regions and to communicate them towards the political partners.

As key events/milestones of 2018 she referred specifically to the Commission's political vision of an ambitious EU space policy: i) the next MFF 2021-27 about EU-spending in the next decade (2 May 2018) and ii) EC's proposal suggests an overall €16 billion Space Programme 2021-2027 bringing all EU-space programs under one roof (6 June 2018). She then summarized the key objectives and the novelties of the new Space Program 2021-2027 which identify a new EU space governance.

Ms Deisting explained that NEREUS seized the opportunity to:

- transmit its political message regarding the significance of EU space activities on regions with respect to the role of EU Parliament on the next MFF. The breakfast meeting with Parliamentarians organized on the 2nd May hosted by Member of European Parliament Monica Hohlmeier and President of Sky&Space Intergroup aimed at underlying the importance of space for Earth with users stories from the regions.
- call for i) doubling investments compared to previous MFF, ii) keeping Europe's space systems at the forefront and iii) dedicating 5% of the total space budget to user uptake and market development.

Ms Deisting, also, informed the audience about some new developments with respect to the New Space Programme: i) the common understanding on the proposed Regulation that was reached by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the EP (March 2019), ii) the endorsement a provisional agreement on the New Space Programme by the EP (April 2019) and that iii) the budget of the New Space Programme will be only finalized once there is an agreement on the MFF.

Ms Deisting addressed that NEREUS needs to continue to advocate for i) the regional dimension, ii) the promotion of up-take and better awareness of space uses and iii) better education and training. She further explained the role of regional stakeholders where both the public and private sector is addressed.

She recalled the statement from Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska (11/01/19, 11th Space policy conference) about Europe becoming 'an attractive hub for space innovation' and made a link with the morning presentation for the space equity fund which follows the same spirit. Ms Deisting added that NEREUS regions contribute to this innovation and she mentioned the presentations on ESA-BIC earlier that day. She invited NEREUS community to go ahead with these discussions and networking amongst each other.

In view of the upcoming elections of the European Parliament, Ms Deisting emphasized the following points of action. NEREUS needs to:

- initiate the dialogue with newly elected Parliament and follow-up the discussions with former Parliamentarians. Ms Deisting confirmed that NEREUS has already been in contact with them.
- mobilise and interact with members whose constituency is situated in NEREUS regions.
- follow-up on the political dialogue with relevant parliament committees clarifying how the regional level and the downstream space sector is active on the evolution of space sector
- ensure how interregional collaborations can better contribute to space business.

At the end of her presentation, she encouraged the NEREUS community to participate to these discussions and wished for a successful and interesting 2019 year.

Activity Report 2018/2019 and Outlook on 2020 by Roya Ayazi, NEREUS Secretary General

(Annex II: PPT RA)

Ms. Roya Ayazi took over to report on the main activities of the year and give an outlook on 2020. She first presented the Activity report 2018 and thanked the new Communication officer, Margarita Chrysaki for her efforts and the new approach. The report is available online on the NEREUS-website (<http://www.nererus-regions.eu/2019/05/16/nererus-annual-report-2018-is-now-available-online/>)

and in a printed form at NEREUS premises. She then gave an overview of the three main pillars of NEREUS strategy: i) Political Dialogue, ii) Interregional Cooperations and Networking/ Partnerships and iii) Technological Trends and Developments relevant for future Space Solutions and User Needs Communication/Outreach.

Ms Ayazi outlined the second pillar which is about *being present at your region, getting to know your regional stakeholders and develop your regional ecosystem*.

- Regional workshops:
 - a) Innovation Forum organized in Podkarpackie region while supporting their ESA-BIC initiative.
 - b) NEREUS is going to organize jointly with Mercator Ocean a workshop particularly targeted in Marine for Outermost and Maritime Regions to know what are the needs of public administrations, the challenges they might have and experiment how EO data can help on maritime services.
 - c) Space Girls Space Women exhibition is about encouraging more women and young people to work in the space sector. The exhibition has been hosted by many NEREUS regions (for example Bremen, Wallonia, Madrid) therefore she invites more regions to contact NEREUS Secretariat in order to host this exhibition by the end of 2019 (on this basis the Management Board might extend the rights of usage after 2019).
- Regional Cooperations with EU/ESA: Ms Ayazi highlighted the necessity of NEREUS involvement into projects as it has an important impact to its community: i) gain practical experience ii) expand the network by reaching out to new communities , iii) gain concrete results of actions. She then focused on three projects:
 - Copernicus4Regions publication and 5 videos (one of them presented at the Living Earth Symposium in Milan) as part of the long term partnership with ESA to promote Earth Observation system at a regional level;
 - EO4GEO initiative comprised of 26 partners (Erasmus + alliance) targeting at bringing space in a more strategic context concerning job opportunities and high employment. NEREUS role is to involve regional stakeholders and see about the needs to fill the gap between technology development and specific skills (upcoming outreach workshop to target group regional representations in Brussels). She then asked for partner regions that are interested to join the initiative;

- CoRdiNet (Copernicus Relays for digitalisation spanning a Network) network of 5 Copernicus Relays (3 of them-East Midlands, Basilicata, Bavaria are NEREUS full members) funded by the Commission. NEREUS aims at making the regional stakeholder more visible by linking external partners to funded projects and invite them to propose their initiatives. She then made a reference to the website <http://www.nererus-regions.eu/> for more information.

Ms Ayazi stressed the importance for regions to be involved and get even more involved in these projects. Recalling the Board's decision, that NEREUS is a platform to facilitate member's involvement in ESA/EU funded activities.

Then she presented the idea of a Global Space Economic Workshop on doing business in other continents and contributing to the "internationalisation of SME". All regions are invited to join the initiative and contribute to developing the program. Starting point for this initiative was the NEREUS-position paper "Space Economic Diplomacy" which had received very positive feedback from the regions (copies of the position paper are online on the NEREUS-website). The Global Space Economic Workshop format is an ESA-workshop format and the event would be realized jointly with ESA and other relevant EU-institutions. She thanked the participants for their attention and offered the floor for questions.

Statutory Affairs:

1. Apologies and proxies received

20 Regions – present (Apulia, Azores, Baden-Württemberg, Basilicata, Bavaria, Brandenburg, Brittany, East Midlands, Hessen, Lombardy, Madrid, Mazovia, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie, Piemonte, Podkarpackie, South Holland, Tuscany, Veneto, Wallonia -**quorum obtained**
No Apologies)

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved as tabled

3. Approval of the minutes of the GA 2018

Ms Ayazi offered the floor for improvements/amendments of the 2018 minutes. Ms Renate Beausoleil mentioned that South Holland was missing from the attendance list. Ms Ayazi replied that maybe there was a mistake in the list of participants.
The minutes of past GA 2018 are approved.

4. Approval of the Accounts 2018

Ms. Roya Ayazi gave the floor to the treasurer for the report on the financial situation of the network.

Mr. Wolfgang Wolf took the floor to present the current state of play of NEREUS' accounts and report on the last financial year of 2018. Firstly, he informed members that the balance sheet is even: the assets and liabilities are even. Similarly to last year, the actually received membership fees are different than the amount of invoiced membership fees: 283, 280 euros were invoiced at the end of 2018 but only 240,250 euros were paid. That means that around 25% of the fees were missing at the end of last year. In comparison with the previous year, 85% was paid at the end of 2018 where 82% was paid at the end of 2017.

Mr Wolf underlined that the situation is not positive if we consider that 43,400 euros are still missing for 2018, 10.000 euros for 2017 and 500 euros for 2016. He outlined that the payment of membership fees is

necessary for the payments to be made on time in order to stabilize the financial situation of NEREUS. Only 75% approximately pay the membership fee in the year of invoicing.

The accounts 2018 are approved

5. Approval Budget 2020

Mr Wolf reported that generally the 2020 budget follows the same line with the previous years. He indicated, however, that there are expenditure reviews as two members cancelled their membership. He also highlighted to the necessity to finance events out of project related income considering the cost of association's annual assemblies for example. Unfortunately, there is a significant reduction on trainings and travel expenses in the 2020 budget, he concluded. The estimated income of membership fees is 267, 793 euros. He then gave the floor to the audience for questions.

Mr Eugenio Fontan from Madrid region took over, he thanked the Management Board and mentioned that he is aware of the efforts being made within the association.

The Budget 2020 is approved

6. Adoption New Memberships/Exclusion

No adoption new memberships/exclusion.

7. Confirmation NEREUS-membership-fees 2020

The NEREUS Membership fees for 2020 are confirmed

8. Discharge of NEREUS-Management Board

Ms Ayazi thanked the old Management Board for the time and input invested the last years in NEREUS. She particularly thanked President Emiliano on behalf of the Management Board and offered him a commemorative gift. President Emiliano thanked warmly Ms Ayazi and the network.

The NEREUS Management Board is discharged

9. Election of a new NEREUS-Management

Ms Ayazi announced that NEREUS had received the following candidacies after the deadline on 29th April 2019:

- the candidacy of Mr Bernard Plano member of the Regional Council in Occitanie as President of NEREUS. In the absence of Mr Plano, Ms Ayazi offered the floor to Mr Yannick Proto Representative of the Occitanie Region to the EU to present the candidacy. He apologised for the late candidacy and introduced Mr Plano's ideas on the presidency. Mr Plano is a Regional Councillor of Occitanie, a NEREUS founding region since 2010, a Vice-President of the Industry Committee and the Regional Innovation Agency, a Vice-President for NEREUS the last two years and he has many years in experience in the aerospace industry sector. Mr Plano will be honoured to present the network and he thanked in advance the members for the support.
- the candidacy of Marshal Ortyl Wladyslaw as Vice-President and Board Member and offered the floor to present himself. Mr Wladyslaw is an active member of the European Committee of Regions since 2013. A notable professional biography is following: he was a chairman of the Regional Development Agency, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Regional development in

Poland and a member of the Senate where he chaired the National Defense Committee. In 2015 he became a member of the National Development Council.

- the candidacy of Ms Aude Körfer, Director of Brittany region as a Board member. Ms Körfer highlighted that Brittany region would like to continue engaging in NEREUS activities and commits to be more involved at regional, national and European level.

There were no objections. The General Assembly admitted these candidacies to stand elections.

Ms Ayazi then gave the floor to Enrico Mayrhofer, Head of Brussels representation of Tuscany region. Mr Mayrhofer outlined that Tuscany region would be interested to be represented in the NEREUS-Management Board and cooperate at board level. He admitted that Tuscany would be aware that only 3 members from each member state could join the board. As there are currently three Italian regions represented in the board he could see that it would at this stage not possible to join. However, he asked the GA to consider in the future to admit additional board members if the max. number of 17 has not been reached. Ms Ayazi thanked him for his interest and promised that NEREUS will involve him closely in the upcoming projects and Board activities.

She then moved on with the presentation of the following candidacies and gave the floor to:

- Minister Fabrizio Sala from Lombardy region for the position Vice-President/MB-member. Mr Sala expressed his motivation for joining the board, his commitment to NEREUS activities and explained the importance of the space technologies for Lombardy region.
- Mr Vito Bardi from Basilicata region for the position Vice-President/MB-member represented by Lucio Bernadini. Mr Bernadini highlighted that Basilicata region was one of the founding fathers of NEREUS and Mr. Bardi expressed his willingness to continue this tradition and increase the political representation in the network.
- Professor Mark Lester from East Midlands for the position Vice-President/MB-member. Professor Lester thanked President Emiliano for his work at NEREUS during his presidency. He then referred to his region's major interest in space technologies and through universities programmes and investments on space programmes. He is a Professor of Space Physics at the University of Leicester and called himself 'a passionate trainer of people' who is trying to engage young people interested to space. From this point of view, he submits his candidacy as a Vice-President.
- Professor Vito Albino from Apulia region for the position Board member. Professor Albino indicated its region's space activities through the universities, private companies and spaceport in Grottaglie. Professor Albino teaches Innovation and Project management in Politecnico di Bari and gave technical assistance to NEREUS President Emiliano through his presidency.
- Mr Francisco Wallenstein Macedo from Azores region for the position Board member. Mr Macedo works for the Azores Mission Structure for Space and he represents the regional government in Azores dealing with all space related matters. He outlined that his region is very active in investing for space infrastructure and through NEREUS to promote themselves to Europe.
- Mr Wolfgang Wolf from Baden-Württemberg for the position Treasurer. He is the General Director of the Association of Industry in Baden-Württemberg and as a President of the Applied Sciences in Tübingen, he cooperates with many space clusters and other networks.
- Ms Perdita de Buhr from Hesse region for the position Board member. Ms de Buhr mentioned that Hesse region wants to invest in the space sector. Ms de Buhr is a lawyer and the Head of Economics Affairs in the representation of Hessen. She is a Board member at NEREUS since 2015.
- Mr Eugenio Fontan from Madrid region for the position Board member. He underlined that Madrid region represents the 92% of space activity in Spain. He is the General Manager of Madrid Aerospace Cluster and he believes that Madrid region can contribute with a great network of partners to the NEREUS community.

- Ms Ewa Janczar from Mazovia region represented by Andrzej Perkowski for the position Board member. Mr Perkowski presented the profile of Ms Janczar, Deputy Director of Spatial information and Digital Innovation and he reassured that her work in the space sector would be an added value for the association.

10. Election of political representatives (President, VPs, Treasurer).

Ms Ayazi initiated the voting process and invited the 20 regional representatives to fill in the ballot papers. She kindly asked members to add in the form by handwriting the names of the late candidacies mentioned above. Ms Chrysaki collected the ballot papers.

After this, Ms Ayazi informed the audience that they will have a detailed overview and attached the results together with the minutes 2019. In a first step Ms. Deisting and Ms. Ayazi made a first counting of the votes.

NEREUS President Emiliano wished good luck to the participants and he is convinced that NEREUS will be in very good hands.

The president stated that the General Assembly had with 20 regions present the necessary quorum to elect the four vice-presidents that stood elections. The procedural formalities were partly not utterly clear to all participants. However there was a common will and understanding to elect four vice-presidents.

The voting result of one of the VP candidates (Marshal Ortyl) was not thoroughly undisputable. President Emiliano highlighted that there were no objections or reservations to the election of this VP until the moment of the vote, hence the problem was probably a misunderstanding about the formalities of the voting procedure. In fact, Marshal Ortyl submitted his request for the vice presidency only during the General Assembly in addition to his candidacy as board member that had been submitted at due date.

President Emiliano was favourable to designate all the 4 candidates as Vice-Presidents. Some representatives were more likely to repeat the vote during the next General Assembly in order to guarantee the democratic endorsement to all the candidates.

There were no objections to the proposal of the president of designating four vice-presidents given to the minutes.

Results of the elections

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Number of votes</u>
MB + President	Mr Bernard Plano	17/17
MB + Vice-President	Mr Vito Bardi	20/20
MB + Vice-President	Professor Mark Lester	20/19
MB + Vice-President	Fabrizio Sala	18/18
MB + Vice-President	Mr Ortyl Wladyslaw	18/6

Treasurer	Wolfgang Wolf	20
Board Member	Mr Vito Albino	20
Board Member	Mr Francisco Wallenstein Macedo	20
Board Member	Mr Eugenio Fontan	20
Board Member	Ms Perdita de Buhr	19
Board Member	Ms Ewa Janczar	18
Board Member	Aude Körfer	15

President: Mr Bernard Plano (Occitanie),

Vice-Presidents: Mr Vito Bardi (Basilicata), Mr Fabrizio Sala (Lombardy), Professor Mark Lester (East Midlands), Marshal Wladyslaw Ortyl (Podkarpackie)

Treasurer: Mr Wolfgang Wolf

Management Board (12 new members): Mr Bernard Plano (Occitanie), Mr Vito Bardi (Basilicata), Mr Fabrizio Sala (Lombardy), Professor Mark Lester (East Mindlands), Mr Wolfgang Wolf (Baden-Württemberg), Mr Vito Albino (Apulia), Mr Francisco Wallenstein Macedo (The Azores), Mr Eugenio Fontan (Madrid), Ms Perdita de Buhr (Hessen), Ms Ewa Janczar (Mazovia), Mr Wladyslaw Ortyl (Podkarpackie) and Aude Körfer (Brittany).

NEREUS Management Board is represented by 12 regions- 2 regions more in comparison with the previous Management Board.

(According to article 13 of the Statutes: *“all decisions will be taken by a simple majority of votes of full members present or represented”*.)

Roya Ayazi
NEREUS-Secretary General

Michele Emiliano
NEREUS-President

List of Annexes:

- I. Annex: Agenda
- II. Annex: PPT Bärbel Deisting
- III. Annex: PPT RA