

## Interview with Airport Regions Council

Part of the main activities of NEREUS is to build partnerships with other stakeholders sharing similar objectives on the use of space at regional and local levels.

One of these stakeholders is the Airport Regions Council (ARC), an association whose mission is to communicate and disseminate airport regions' interests towards European institutions and key airport and aviation stakeholders. Mr. Sergi Alegre Calero, ARC Director General highlighted the following interesting points considering the synergies between aviation and space.

Firstly, airports represent a crucial infrastructure for any European region, something which is not the case in other parts of the world, such as the US where regions and cities are not the owners or managers of the infrastructure. In this respect, regions can participate in the decision-making of the airports' activities, including territorial and urban planning, mobility, transport, connectivity, environment and zero pollution, or financial growth and investment.

Secondly, airports are usually the hubs for companies, such as the air cargo industry, and facilitate the organisation of international events increasing job growth and e-commerce. For this reason, one of the main priorities is the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens living close to airport areas. Air quality and air traffic management are two crucial topics concerning the development of the current and future EU policies, legislation and management of the airport & aviation sectors.

Advocacy plays a key role for airport regions to shape the EU decisions and maintain the partnership with the Commission, the Parliament, the Committee of the Regions as well as with other key stakeholders such as ACI Europe, IATA, ERAA, BAA, etc.

Thirdly, air quality and transport are two common domains between the aviation and space sector. Satellite navigation (new constellations of cube-sats) and real-time positioning data support the evolution of the trajectory of the aircraft at the airport (e.g. Aistech). Space data can play a crucial role in the development of new air navigation services and tools, and time management (airports can make better predictions).

Finally, based on his previous experience at El Prat local government and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, Mr. Alegre underlined the importance of using space information in combination with advocacy and collaboration between administrations is essential for the daily life of any citizen.