Bologna Political Declaration

Regions shaping Europe's space future

Joint declaration of political representatives of European regions of the NEREUS network
Bologna, 23 October 2026 | NEREUS Annual Symposium

NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) helps regions turn space data and services into better public policies and benefits for citizens. Through political dialogue, interregional cooperation and awareness raising; it promotes applications based on Copernicus and EGNOS/Galileo.

Hosted by the Emilia-Romagna Region, the 2026 Symposium explores how artificial intelligence, big data and high-performance computing can improve space data management and regional public services.

We, the political representatives of European regions gathered in Bologna,

RECOGNISING the contribution of space technologies to Europe's competitiveness, strategic autonomy, safety, security and resilience;

UNDERLINING the role of regions in mobilising investment, research, skills and industrial capabilities, and the value of cooperation among their ecosystems;

CONSIDERING the ongoing negotiation on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034 and future programmes, including the European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe;

We make the following commitment:

1 Strengthen the political role of regions

We call for structured regional involvement in European space policy and programming. Regions connect territorial needs with scientific and industrial expertise, helping translate investment into practical applications. We promote their uptake to support the social, digital and green transitions and territorial resilience.

2 Secure a strong regional dimension in the EU budget

We call on the European institutions to ensure that the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework provides:

- Adequate investment and funding accessible to regional space ecosystems;

- Stronger synergies between space programmes, research, innovation, industrial competitiveness and cohesion policy;
- Support for interregional partnerships, joint investment and integrated European space value chains.

3 Connect regional space ecosystems

We develop partnerships among businesses, universities, research centres and public authorities to combine complementary capabilities, share knowledge and bring space applications to market. This includes strengthening expertise in strategic and dual-use technologies and raising the visibility of regional capabilities through NEREUS.

4 Mobilise European AI Factories for space applications

In the framework of the European AI Act, we facilitate the use of the computing capacity, services and specialised expertise of the European network of AI Factories for satellite data analysis and the development of AI-based applications. This cooperation will strengthen regional data platforms and help public authorities, businesses and researchers develop space-based services that address territorial needs and support the aerospace economy.

5 Strengthen NEREUS as a common political voice

NEREUS will be further consolidated as a platform for regional representation and dialogue with EU institutions. Regular political exchanges among the partner regions, alongside the Annual Symposium and in Brussels, will help align regional priorities and contribute to the EU agenda.

To this aim, we will encourage new regions, affiliated partners and user communities to join the network.

Bologna's message to Europe

Europe's space ambitions require strong regions and connected ecosystems. The next EU budget must give them concrete opportunities to invest, cooperate and turn technological capabilities into value for citizens and businesses.

Europe's space future is being built with its regions. Regions are ready to shape it.

Bologna, 23 October 2026
The political representatives of European regions within the NEREUS network