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A MEDITERRANEAN SATELLITE TO REALIZE THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Abstract

According to the final declaration of the Mediterranean summit (July 2008), the Union which can be interpreted as a continuation of the Barcelona process and can play an important role in coping with the common challenges that the Euro- Mediterranean region. During the Summit, some suggestions were made about setting a common policy in which environment would take a strategic place to reinforce the projects that can protect the Mediterranean from serious threats by creating such mechanisms as:

- A Mediterranean agency for the protection of the ecological system and the sea coasts.
- A warning observatory for all various kinds of marine accidents
- A center to transfer technologies in renewable energy in de salting sea- water and in nano - technologies

we should bear in mind these objectives when we think about developing space applications on the Mediterranean scale.

No one can have doubts about the interest in the satellite networks for the development of the different space applications (telephone connection the Internet connection, tele-sensing, weather forecast, watching etc. . . .) It is important to know that only five Mediterranean countries over twenty-seven are equipped with a national network and that the average age of a satellite varies between 10 and 15 years. For these reasons, it is necessary to start planning and coordinating in the space field. The suggested study of feasibility should lead to the creation of a Mediterranean Satellite network. It is to be noted that the Maghrebi countries have for long wished to have a satellite that covers the North African countries along with Arabsate Nilsate. But nothing indicates that this satellite would be carried out very soon. A study has been scrupulously made for that purpose but, the political decision has not been reached yet. The Mediterranean Satellite would have much more luck than the Maghrebi Satellite and would correspond better to the needs of all the countries around the Mediterranean Sea.