

EUTELSAT 40th ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

Paris, France, 15 March 2017

By François Rancy, Director, ITU Radiocommunication Bureau

It is a great pleasure to address you, on behalf of the ITU Secretary General, Mr Houlin Zhao, in this opening session of the 40th EUTELSAT Assembly of Parties, which is also celebrating the 40th anniversary of EUTELSAT.

Since the beginning of EUTELSAT in 1977, the purpose of the Organization has been to ensure that all its Member States benefit from the most advanced telecommunication technologies without discrimination and at an affordable price. This is also the main purpose of the ITU and it is no surprise that the 49 Parties of EUTELSAT IGO are also Member States of the ITU. This is also why over the years the ITU and EUTELSAT IGO have worked so closely to promote and support their common objectives in all areas of the world.

It is also a particular pleasure for me personally to be here today, since the first fifteen years of my professional life were spent primarily in contributing to the development of the international satellite organizations, a period in which I had the privilege to learn about the value of international cooperation, based on mutual respect and consensus.

Since 2011, when I took office as Director of the Radiocommunications Bureau of the ITU I have been in charge of managing the process through which the 193 countries of the ITU are provided with equitable access to spectrum resources and orbital locations, which is why I recognize the importance of the orbital and spectrum assets which are commonly owned by the 49 EUTELSAT Parties.

Thanks to these assets and its able management, Eutelsat S.A. has been able, in these forty years, to rapidly become and remain one of the very first satellite operators in the world and a very healthy enterprise. I would like to express my gratitude to EUTELSAT IGO and Eutelsat S.A. for the excellent cooperation we had together in co-organizing capacity building events and exchange of ideas to ensure that the satellite communication eco-system continues to develop in a sustainable manner, without harmful interference. In particular, the personal contribution of EUTELSAT IGO Executive Secretary, Mr Christian Roisse,

to the work of the Broadband Commission, jointly organized by ITU and UNESCO, is highly appreciated.

The continued expansion of radiocommunications and the increasing role they are taking in our societies have notably increased the pressure on spectrum and the insatiable appetite for mobile communications has started, in the last ten years, to threaten the long-term availability of the spectrum resources from which satellite communications are fed.

Fortunately, satellite technology has made consistent progress to ensure that spectrum resources are used more and more efficiently and that the additional spectrum allocated to satellite communications, such as Ka-band and V-band, can be utilized. Eutelsat S.A. has always strived for the early adoption of these technologies, thus maintaining its leadership.

Long-term access of satellites to the C-band and Ka-band has been secured by the decisions of the last ITU World radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), which also made available additional Ku-band spectrum for satellites. The next conference, WRC-19, will again address the issue of additional spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) in higher frequency bands (above 24 GHz), together with additional allocations for non-geostationary satellites and High Altitude Platforms. Sharing will once again be a necessity to ensure that the satellite eco-system will continue to flourish and I am sure that EUTELSAT Parties, as well as Eutelsat S.A., will continue to work together to carry out the necessary studies for the preparation of WRC-19, so that a consensus can be reached by this conference to ensure that all radiocommunication services can continue to serve the general public throughout the world.

I wish you a very successful Assembly of Parties and the continuous success of EUTELSAT in ensuring that Eutelsat S.A. continues to comply with the obligations related to Basic Principles.

As we are celebrating its 40th anniversary, I would like to conclude in wishing “Long live to EUTELSAT!”

François Rancy