

**Letter to the European governments  
and the EU Commission and Parliament**

drafted by the Infrastructures Commission (March 2003)

Since the Council meeting in the Spring of last year great efforts have been made to push forward the GALILEO project: EU and ESA member states have so far shown great conviction while the private sector has actively contributed and appears willing to do its part. ELEC has supported these positive developments and continues to take great interest in the matter, especially now that GALILEO seems to encounter political difficulties.

GALILEO will be a technological advance that can make Europe safer and give its economies an important impulse. In 2000 in Lisbon, the European Council agreed on a strategy to convert the EU into the world's most competitive and knowledge-based economy, providing better employment opportunities and a stronger social cohesion. GALILEO must clearly be viewed in the context of this joint effort to modernize our economy, and ELEC considers it as an essential tool for enabling European companies to compete successfully on world markets. In particular, the initiative e-Europe would greatly benefit from the many different application segments contained in GALILEO. Furthermore, GALILEO would help implement the Trans-European Networks policy and facilitate the enlargement process.

The European Council's spring meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching. European industries need to receive now strong signals from the governments pointing to a quickening pace in the process and to the right political decisions. After many resources have already been invested in the project, and keeping in mind the importance of having GALILEO fully operational by 2008, it is now necessary to overcome political divergences.

The European economy's decision-makers should be given clear indications as to the attainment of a workable compromise before the Industry Day on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Failing to do so would harm the credibility of the project and could well mean the loss of an important partner: the industry.

ELEC therefore strongly invites all the governments involved to make the necessary concessions now in order to make possible a timely progress on GALILEO.

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*sent to:*

*\* EU and CEECs Member States (via Ambassadors at EU permanent representation / mission)*

*\* Romano Prodi - Loyola de Palacio - Patrick Cox - European Space Agency*

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