RESOLUTION ON

THE FRAMEWORK APPROACH TOWARDS A EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM (EPS) PROGRAMME

Adopted at the 30th meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 1 April 1996

The EUMETSAT Council,

RECOGNISING the important contribution to operational meteorology and climate monitoring provided by the EPS mission, in particular to WMO programmes;

NOTING that the USA will provide operational observations from the morning polar orbit only until the year 2001 and considering that the USA will continue to provide operational polar observation from the afternoon orbit;

CONSIDERING the paramount importance to Europe of routine observations from the morning orbit;

RECOGNISING that the EPS represents the European contribution in the morning orbit to the Joint Polar System, the other element of which will be provided by the USA;

BEING AWARE of the need to continue without interruption ongoing industrial design and development activities in order to reach a timely first launch of the European contribution to an Initial Joint Polar System by 2002;

RECALLING Resolution EUM/C/95/Res. IV, adopted at the 29th meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 29th November - 1st December 1995, which agreed to pursue with ESA a programme of 3 satellites and tasked the Director with completing the details of a revised EPS Programme Proposal for submission to the June 1996 Council meeting with the expectation that the corresponding revised Programme Resolution would be opened for adoption at this June meeting;

NOTING the outcome of the Special ESA Council meeting on 26 February 1996, which endorsed the view that METOP is an Earth Watch type mission and, as such, should be developed by ESA in cooperation with EUMETSAT on the basis of mission/system requirements established by EUMETSAT as the User Organisation and utilising the management, technical, scientific and development skills of ESA;

AGREES TO:

I endorse the contents of document EUM/C/30/96/DOC/1, representing the revised framework approach for the EPS Programme, and in particular a joint space segment to be established by EUMETSAT and ESA. The inclusion of SEM and S&R in the payload is also endorsed,

II task the Director with the elaboration of the Programme Proposal and associated Programme Resolution and Cooperation Agreements in accordance with the concepts and schedule outlined in document EUM/C/30/96/DOC/1 for submission to the June 1996 Council meeting, bearing in mind also the need to satisfy various Member States motivations as expressed in the Council,

III task the Director to include in the programme concept 15 years of operations and to seek ways to achieve this within the financial envelope,

IV task the Director to explore the possibility of including MIMR in the EPS Programme on the basis of an Italian proposal, ensuring that this possibility is compatible with the overall financial envelope including 15 years of operations. The outcome of this exploration needs to be available by the end of May 1996,

V task the Director to define as soon as possible a contribution profile for EPS taking into account other EUMETSAT Programmes and endeavouring to make the consolidated contribution profile as flat as possible.

VI task the Director to investigate, through the advice of EUMETSAT STG and of ESA, the possibilities of including in the EPS within the overall financial envelope an ozone monitoring instrument that satisfies best user requirements within the EUMETSAT Member States.

RESOLUTION ON

THE EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM

Adopted at the 31st meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 26-27 June 1996

The EUMETSAT Council,

NOTING the considerable progress made on the preparation of a EUMETSAT Polar System;

NOTING with appreciation the steps taken by ESA in preparing for the approval of the ESA METOP-1 programme;

CONSIDERING the urgency to agree on the EPS/METOP programme proposal and start its implementation;

BEARING IN MIND the commitments made already by United States concerning an Initial Joint Polar System;

WISHING to strengthen the harmonious cooperation between all Member States of EUMETSAT,

BEARING IN MIND the view of the Council that national motivations consist of scientific, technical, economical and industrial interests;

AGREES:

I to meet in the EPS Programme, especially for the space segment, the national motivations taking into account the level of contributions;

II to the scientific and technical content of the EPS programme as defined in Document EUM/C/31/96/DOC/8 Rev.2 + Annexes;

III to postpone the decision on the choice of the ozone monitoring instrument until the December 1996 Council meeting in order to give the instrument providers the possibility to react on the evaluation and to reassess the identified risks while staying within the planned cost envelope for the ozone mission;

IV to consider the final approval of the EPS Programme and the associated cooperation agreements only after submission of the contract proposal for the space segment in accordance with the time schedule set out in Document EUM/C/31/96/DOC/8 Rev.2 + Annexes;

REQUESTS:

the Director to issue the Request for Quotation for the space segment and to undertake the necessary steps in order to prepare the contract proposal to be presented for approval to the June 1997 Council, taking into account national motivations as expressed above;

INVITES:

Member States to initiate their internal procedures allowing for the opening of the voting on the EPS Programme Resolution in the next Council meeting;

URGES:

ESA to open the ESA METOP-1 Programme Declaration for subscription as soon as possible, thereby also allowing the timely issue, together with EUMETSAT, of the space segment Request for Quotation.

RESOLUTION ON

THE CONTINUATION OF MHS ACTIVITIES

Adopted at the 31st Meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 26-27 June 1996

The EUMETSAT Member States,

RECALLING the Resolution EUM/C/95/Res. VII unanimously adopted at the 29th Council on 29th November - 1st December 1995,

NOTING that the vote of Italy is conditional with regard to the finalisation of national approval procedures related to the EPS programme,

EXPECTING that Italy will be able to lift its ad referendum within a short period of time,

BEARING IN MIND that all Member States have voted in favour of contributing an amount of 21.8 MECU, at 1996 economic conditions, for an independent development of the MHS instrument, to be exceptionally administered as a distinct sub-envelope within the General Budget,

AGREE:

I that the necessary tasks foreseen to be carried out under the extension of MHS activities can start with effect from 1 July 1996,

II that Italy will be legally obliged to contribute financially only after finalisation of national approval procedures, and that its contribution would only become due then,

III that if Italy would not be in a position to confirm finalisation of national approval procedures by 1 July 1997 at the latest, those Member States who have agreed unconditionally to contribute to the continuation of MHS will decide on the action to be taken,

IV that in the 1996 and 1997 budgets, an amount corresponding to the contribution of Italy is blocked until the finalisation of national approval procedures has been notified to the EUMETSAT Secretariat.

RESOLUTION ON THE EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM (EPS) PROGRAMME

Presented for Adoption at the 32nd meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 3 - 5 December 1996

Adopted at the 42nd meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 22-24 June 1999

The EUMETSAT Member States,

HAVING REGARD to the EUMETSAT Convention which states that the primary objective of EUMETSAT is to establish, maintain and exploit European systems of operational meteorological satellites,

CONFIRMING the EUMETSAT Council Resolutions expressing a wish to establish a European polar system, in particular the Resolution EUM/C/Res. II, which, with reference to the Programme Proposal in document EUM/C/31/DOC/8 Rev. 2, agreed to the scientific and technical content of the programme and addressed the need to satisfy the national motivations,

RECALLING Resolution EUM/C/92/Res.VIII establishing the EUMETSAT Polar System Preparatory Programme,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Resolutions EUM/C/95/Res.VII and EUM/C/96/Res. III on the MHS Project Funding,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Resolution EUM/C/96/Res.VI on the EPS Bridging Phase,

WELCOMING the Resolution Ref. ESA/C-M/CIV/Res.1, Final, by the ESA Council at Ministerial Level held in Granada on 9-10 November 1992 concerning inter alia the METOP mission,

BEARING IN MIND that polar satellites in both morning and afternoon orbits are essential for operational meteorology and that the morning orbit is of particular importance to Europe for geographical reasons,

RECOGNISING the importance of EPS for climate monitoring as well as for meteorological observations,

CONSIDERING that the USA freely provided meteorological data from the polar orbit to the rest of the world for more than 30 years,

NOTING with appreciation that the USA will provide operational meteorological observations from the morning polar orbit until the year 2001 and that the USA will continue to provide the operational meteorological observations from the afternoon orbit,

IN CONFORMITY WITH Article 17.3 of the EUMETSAT Convention,

AGREE:

I To establish a programme for a EUMETSAT Polar System with a first launch scheduled for 2002 and with operations expected to last until 2016.

II That the implementation of the EUMETSAT Polar System Programme will include:

a) A Space Segment which will consist of three METOP satellites accommodating the payload instruments identified under b) below.

The Space Segment will be established in cooperation with the European Space Agency as a Single Space Segment, according to the modalities defined in the Cooperation Agreement with ESA on the METOP Satellite Series.

b) The following instruments for flight on the METOP satellites:

i) Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-A (AMSU-A) replaced by a Microwave Temperature Sounder (NPOESS or MTS) if available for METOP-3;

ii) Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS);

iii) High Resolution Infrared Sounder (HIRS);

iv) Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI);

v) Global Navigation Satellite Systems Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding (GRAS);

vi) Advanced Very High Resolution Sounder (AVHRR) replaced by a Visible and Infrared Imager (NPOESS or VIRI) if available for METOP-3;

vii) Data Collection System- Argos (DCS-Argos);

viii) Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME-2) flying on METOP-1 and 2 and ImS being considered for METOP-3 assuming compatibility with the EPS financial envelope;

ix) Advanced Wind Scatterometer (ASCAT);

x) Space Environment Monitor (SEM);

xi) Search and Rescue Service (S&R).

A Cooperation Agreement will be entered into with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the provision of the instruments in i), iii), vi), x) and xi) above.

Cooperation Agreements will be entered into with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) for the provision of the instruments in iv) and vii) above.

The instruments in v), viii) and ix) will be procured as part of the Single Space Segment in cooperation with the European Space Agency.

The instrument in ii) will be procured by EUMETSAT.

c) Procurement of the launch services for the METOP satellites.

d) Conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales on a launch shared between METOP-1 and SPOT-5.

e) Identification of a partner for a second, and possibly third, shared launch and conclusion of the corresponding agreement(s), or procurement of dedicated launch service(s) at a comparable cost.

f) The development, procurement and test of the ground segment for the operations of the EPS System.

g) System commissioning following the launch of the satellites.

h) Operations for a period of 14 years.

i) Conclusion of an Agreement with NOAA to provide the afternoon service of the Initial Joint Polar System (IJPS), and covering the provision of 2 Microwave Humidity Sounders (MHS) for the US satellites NOAA N and NOAA N'. The conclusion of any cooperation agreement with NOAA beyond the IJPS will be considered by Council in due course.

j) Procurement of 2 MHSs for the US satellites NOAA N and NOAA N'.

III That the overall programme envelope amounts to 1464 MECU at 1994 economic conditions (1569 MECU at 1996 economic conditions), with an indicative payment profile to be agreed by Council separately and unanimously. The overall programme envelope includes all activities for the development of MHS and for the EPS Bridging Phase undertaken in anticipation of the full approval of the EPS Programme.

IV To fund the EUMETSAT Polar System Programme with a scale of contributions based on the Gross National Product of Member States, based on OECD statistics.

V By a vote representing at least two-thirds of the Member States present and voting, representing also at least two-thirds of the total amount of contributions, to approve possible cost overruns of up to 10% of the overall programme envelope in III above.

VI To amend the Annexes to the EUMETSAT Convention as attached.

AMENDMENT TO ANNEX I OF THE CONVENTION

CHAPTER G

EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM PROGRAMME

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION AND PROGRAMME CONTENT

1 MISSIONS

The EUMETSAT Polar System (EPS) will provide for the development and operation of a system providing continuation and enhancement of observations from the morning polar orbit. This system will be designed to provide continuous observations from the end of the current service provided by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), from 2002 until 2016. The EPS programme is a component of a Joint European/US Polar System comprising satellites with morning and afternoon (equatorial crossing time) orbits. Accordingly, the following main missions have been defined.

a) Operational Meteorology and Climate Monitoring

Global Sounding (incl. Advanced Sounding):	provides vertical profiles of temperature and humidity to support the numerical forecasting models.
Global Imagery:	provides cloud imagery for forecasting applications. Used for the calculation of sea surface temperatures, vegetation indices, ice and snow cover, atmospheric aerosol content and radiation budget parameters. Also supports the global sounding mission through the identification of cloud free areas.
Data Collection/ Location:	supports, amongst other activities, World Weather objectives by the reception and dissemination of in-situ meteorological observations from ocean buoys and other similar data collection platforms.
Wind Scatterometry:	provides speed and direction of winds at the Ocean surface.

Climate Monitoring:	provides *inter alia* information from Imagery and Sounding, Sea Ice coverage information, Ozone Observations.

b) Further Mission Capabilities

Provide Data on Cloud Distribution, Earth Missions, Atmospheric Minor Constituents, Stress at Ocean Surface.

These missions contribute to the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the International Geosphere/Biosphere Programme (IGBP).

c) Data Services

Global Data Access:	supports global scale forecasting by providing global data to users within 2 ¼ hours of the instant of observation.
Local Data Access:	supports forecasting activities by the real-time transmission of data to local reception stations (via the LRPT and HRPT services).

d) Additional Services

Space Environment Monitoring:	supports routine monitoring of the low earth orbit charged particle environment by a Space Environment Monitoring instrument (SEM).
Humanitarian:	supports an international Search and Rescue service (S&R).

2 THE EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM

2.1 Space Segment

The space segment of the EUMETSAT Polar System is based on a series of three METOP satellites embarking the following payload:

a)	Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-A (AMSU-A)	Microwave sounder with 15 channels in the range 23-90 GHz (will be replaced by a Microwave Temperature Sounder (NPOESS or MTS), if available for METOP-3);
b)	Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS)	Microwave sounder with five channels at 89,157 and around 183 GHz;
c)	High resolution Infra-Red Sounder (HIRS)	Sounder with 19 infrared channels in the range 3-15 microns, and one visible channel;
d)	Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI)	Infrared Michelson Interferometer covering the 3.4-15.5 microns range;
e)	Global Navigation Satellite Systems Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding (GRAS)	Receiver performing Radio Occultation measurements of the signals provided by the GPS or GLONASS navigation satellites;
f)	Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR)	Imaging radiometer with six channels in the range 0.6-12 microns (will be replaced by a Visible and Infrared Imager (NPOESS or VIRI), if available for METOP-3);
g)	Data Collection System (DCS-Argos)	UHF receiver and signal processor;
h)	Global Ozone Monitoring Instrument	Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME-2) flying on METOP-1 and 2 and ImS being considered for METOP-3 assuming compatibility with the EPS financial envelope;
i)	Advanced Scatterometer (ASCAT)	Pulsed Doppler radar in C-band;
j)	Space Environment Monitor (SEM);	
k)	Search and Rescue (S&R).	

2.2 Ground Segment

The EUMETSAT Polar System ground segment will consist of a network of functional facilities whose definition takes into account identified functional, communication and location constraints. The architecture of the ground segment takes due account of the EUMETSAT policy on the repartition of processing facilities amongst a central and national sites.

a) The Polar Command and Data Acquisition (PCDA) station, to be located in Northern Europe, provides the receiving and transmission facilities for satellite monitoring, tracking and control and X-Band receiving facilities for the acquisition of the Global Data Stream recorded on-board. The PCDA is supplemented by a back-up station. During the LEOP phase and contingency operation, the PCDA will be complemented by a rented S-Band ground network.

b) The centrally located Polar Satellite Control Centre (PSCC) performs the operation of the METOP satellite and monitors and controls the health and safety of the platform and the instruments.

c) The centrally located Polar Mission Control Centre (PMCC) is responsible for the management of the overall EPS system. It establishes the work schedule for the METOP satellites, controls all elements of the Ground Segment and monitors the execution of the various tasks. The PMCC is responsible for the planning of the satellite payload activities and for the monitoring of all EPS missions execution.

d) The centrally located Polar Data Ingestion Facility (PDIF) receives the global data received by the PCDA station and generates earth located, quality controlled, and calibrated data, which are then forwarded for product generation.

e) The centrally located Polar Product Extraction Facility (PPEF) generates key meteorological products for general distribution. It also provides general support and expertise to the routine management of the system as a whole.

f) Satellite Application Facilities (SAF) will be established in Member States to provide meteorological and environmental products not generated by the PPEF.

g) The centrally located Polar Archive and Catalogue Facility (PACF) will archive at least all centrally generated measurements data and products from the METOP and, possibly, from the NOAA Initial Joint Polar System (IJPS) satellites. It will maintain a catalogue of all information in the archive and provide the appropriate tools for consultation and data retrieval.

h) Data circulation networks ensure the distribution/exchange of data and the interfaces between the facilities.

3 PROGRAMME CONTENT

The EPS system will be implemented in cooperation with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES). The EPS Programme will include the following:

a) A Space Segment which will consist of three METOP satellites accommodating the payload instruments identified under b) below.

The Space Segment will be established in cooperation with the European Space Agency, in the framework of a Single Space Segment, according to the modalities defined in the Cooperation Agreement.

b) The following instruments for flight on the METOP satellites:

i) Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-A (AMSU-A) replaced by a Microwave Temperature Sounder (NPOESS or MTS) if available for METOP-3;

ii) Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS);

iii) High Resolution Infrared Sounder (HIRS);

iv) Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI);

v) Global Navigation Satellite Systems Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding (GRAS);

vi) Advanced Very High Resolution Sounder (AVHRR) replaced by a Visible and Infra-Red Imager (NPOESS or VIRI) if available for METOP-3;

vii) Data Collection System- Argos (DCS-Argos);

viii) Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME-2) flying on METOP-1 and 2 and ImS being considered for METOP-3 assuming compatibility with the EPS financial envelope;

ix) Advanced Wind Scatterometer (ASCAT);

x) Space Environment Monitor (SEM);

xi) Search and Rescue Service (S&R).

Cooperation Agreement will be entered into with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the provision of the instruments in i), iii), vi), x) and xi) above.

Cooperation Agreements will be entered into with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) for the provision of the instruments in iv) and vii) above.

The instruments in v), viii) and ix) will be procured as part of the Single Space Segment in cooperation with the European Space Agency.

The instrument in ii) will be procured by EUMETSAT.

c) Procurement of the launch services for the METOP satellites.

d) Conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales on a launch shared between METOP-1 and SPOT-5.

e) Identification of a partner for a second, and possibly third, shared launch and conclusion of the corresponding agreement(s), or procurement of dedicated launch service(s) at a comparable cost.

f) The development, procurement and test of the Ground Segment for the operations of the EPS System.

g) System commissioning following the launch of the satellites.

h) Operations for a period of 14 years.

i) Conclusion of an Agreement with NOAA to provide the afternoon service of the Initial Joint Polar System.

j) Procurement of 2 Microwave Humidity Sounders (MHS) for the US satellites NOAA N and NOAA N'.

AMENDMENT TO ANNEX II OF THE CONVENTION

CHAPTER G

EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM PROGRAMME

ANNEX II of the Convention shall be complemented with a Chapter G

EUMETSAT POLAR SYSTEM PROGRAMME

1 FINANCIAL ENVELOPE

The activities in Annex I Chapter G (EUMETSAT Polar System Programme) will have a financial envelope of 1464 MECU at 1994 economic conditions (1569 MECU at 1996 economic conditions).

2 SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The Member States shall contribute to the EUMETSAT Polar System Programme in accordance with the following scale of contributions:

MEMBER STATES	% CONTRIBUTIONS
Austria	2.43
Belgium	2.85
Denmark	1.75
Finland	1.19
France	16.66
Germany	25.53
Greece	1.20
Ireland	0.57
Italy	13.64
Netherlands	4.16
Norway	1.53
Portugal	1.15
Spain	6.53
Sweden	2.61
Switzerland	3.27
Turkey	2.04
United Kingdom	12.89
TOTAL	100.00

The basis for the calculation of the contributions is the Gross National Product statistics issued by the OECD. The current scale of contributions is based on the reference period 1992-1994, applicable for the period 1997-1999. The scale will be updated in triennial intervals, starting 1 January 2000.

Possible cost overruns up to 10% of the financial envelope may be approved by Council by a vote representing at least two-thirds of the Member States present and voting, representing also at least two-thirds of the total amount of contributions.

RESOLUTION ON

THE EPS BRIDGING PHASE

Presented for Adoption at the 32nd meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 3 - 5 December 1996

Adopted on 22 August 1997

The EUMETSAT Member States,

NOTING the opening of the EPS Programme Resolution for voting by the 32nd EUMETSAT Council,

FIRMLY EXPECTING the voting on the EPS Programme Resolution to be completed, at the latest, by the 30th June 1997,

NOTING the Draft Resolution on the Continuation of EPS Activities, stating the expectation that the approval of the EPS Bridging Phase will be achieved by 31st January 1997 at the latest,

NOTING with appreciation that ESA has opened a METOP-1 Programme Declaration, including bridging activities within the overall METOP-1 Programme envelope.

RECALLING the spirit and the intention of the Cooperation Agreement between ESA and EUMETSAT on the METOP Satellite Series, to jointly finance and manage the industrial activities related to the Single Space Segment through single contracts with Industry,

EXPECTING ESA approval of the Cooperation Agreement between ESA and EUMETSAT on the METOP satellite series in the December 1996 ESA Council,

RECOGNISING the need for EUMETSAT to contribute to the funding of the critical bridging activities related to the Single Space Segment in order to safeguard the schedule and cost established in the EPS/METOP Programme Proposal,

AGREE:

I on an EPS Bridging Phase for essential EPS activities in Industry, prior to the approval of the full EPS Programme,

II to contribute an amount of 16.9 MECU, at 1997 economic conditions, for the EPS Bridging Phase, to be exceptionally administered as a distinct sub-envelope within the General Budget,

III that, by Council decision with simple majority, it shall be possible to discontinue the Bridging Phase on 30th June 1997,

IV that the Bridging Phase will automatically terminate on 31st October 1997 if, at that time, the approval f the EUMETSAT programme has not been achieved, in which case the total liability towards industry, including termination charges, shall not exceed 50% of the total cost.,

V that the activities to be undertaken with ESA under the EPS Bridging Phase shall be conducted along the lines of the Cooperation Agreement on the METOP Satellite Series,

VI that the activities and financial commitments undertaken by EUMETSAT in the context of the EPS Bridging Phase will, in the end, be wholly subsumed within the overall EPS Programme envelope.

RESOLUTION ON

THE CONTINUATION OF EPS ACTIVITIES

Adopted at the 32nd meeting of the EUMETSAT Council on 3 - 5 December 1996

The EUMETSAT Member States,

HAVING REGARD to the EUMETSAT Convention which states that the primary objective of EUMETSAT is to establish, maintain and exploit European systems of operational meteorological satellites,

CONSIDERING that the amended Convention, which is expected to enter into force in the near future, stipulates that the mandatory programmes of EUMETSAT are the basic programmes required to continue the provision of observations from geostationary and polar orbits,

RECALLING Europe's record of successful contribution to the World Weather Watch of the WMO,

BEARING IN MIND that the United States of America, until 2000, will provide satellite data from both the morning and afternoon polar orbit free of charge to Europe, but will no longer cover the need of observations from the morning polar orbit from the start of the next century and recalling the absolute necessity for Europe to secure coverage of this orbit for its own needs,

NOTING that the EPS Preparatory Programme will have exhausted its resources by the end of 1996,

NOTING that a programme resolution for the EPS Programme has been opened for voting in the 32nd Council, with the firm expectation that the voting will have been completed by 30th June 1997,

RECALLING that an EPS Bridging Phase is needed in order to cover the period between the expiry of the EPS Preparatory Programme and entry into force of the EPS Programme,

STRESSING that only by the approval of the Bridging Phase will it be possible to maintain the programmatic and financial baseline of the EPS Programme,

RECALLING that the voting on the EPS Bridging Phase Resolution was opened at the 32nd Council, with the expectation that the EPS Bridging Phase will be approved by 31st January 1997.

RECALLING that unanimity is required both for the EPS Bridging Phase and the EPS Programme,

FEARING that failure to reach agreement would be a very serious threat to European cooperation in application of space technology and meteorology and climate monitoring, which has an outstanding record of success, and that such a failure would endanger the cooperation with the United States of America in meteorology and climate monitoring in general and on polar orbiting systems in particular,

NOTING that the outcome of the voting in the 32nd Council was that 12 countries voted in favour of the EPS Bridging Phase Resolution, with Denmark and United Kingdom voting in favour ad referendum, and that Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland reserved their vote for subsequent communication to EUMETSAT,

AGREE:

to reconsider the situation in early February 1997 if, contrary to expectations, approval of the EPS Bridging Phase should not have been achieved by 31st January 1997.