



## UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

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May 20th, 2008

Dear members of the Greece-ESA Task Force,

This is just to inform you that I have resigned as a member of the Greece-ESA Task force. Nevertheless, I want to highlight to you that the situation is becoming critical :

- Although at the start (2005), we had envisioned approximately one Call of Ideas per year, more than half of the transitional period for Greece to adjust to the ESA needs has already passed and even the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Ideas has not been fully implemented. By extrapolation, in the less than 33 months remaining, I am afraid that the situation is not going to improve. Evidently, this will have tremendous negative consequences for Greek Space Science, Astronomy and Astrophysics.
- I was the only member of the Greek Space and Astronomy/Astrophysics academic community left in the Greece-ESA Task Force. After the results of the previous Call for Ideas wherein not a single proposal by any Greek Space and Astronomy/Astrophysics scientist was among the finally selected 40 proposals, you would agree with me that there is no point to continue representing this academic community in the Task Force committee.
- I am completely flabbergasted that Greece completely abdicated from the process of awarding funds to Greek Space science and Astronomy or Astrophysics groups to develop ESA-related instrumentation.
- The members of my academic community have been disappointed not only because several of their excellent proposals (as judged by the ESA Technical Review) were eliminated by the Programmatic Review (in reality a single person), but also because no convincing explanations were provided to them, nor, their e-mail requests were even answered. Apparently the new members office of ESA needs more and better staff and also more respect to the applicants.

Thank you for taking into account this problem.

Sincerely,

Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos