

**COMMENTS TO THE SEMINAR HELD ON THE 25 OF JANUARY 2022****GUEST: Mr. Nienass, MEP****Please write down your name and affiliation and your comment/question**

**Dr. Povilas Šimonis, Center for Physical Sciences and Technology:** It is clear that with the desire to grow in the space sector, more specialists will be needed. As a person looking for a postdoc position in the astrobiology-related field (so far without success), I believe that more training, as well as postdoc programs, should be opened. Are there any plans to actively support early career researchers, provide training so people can get involved in space research?

**Dr. Vera Assis Fernandes, isotope chronology researcher with focus on the Moon, but also in achondrites (visiting Resercher in Berlin, Lisbon and Manchester), and educator (Horizontereignis, Berlin).** Currently developing an outreach project with a focus on meteorites. I have been interested and in part concerned, with Human space and planetary exploration, since I attended the summer ISU session in 2002. Out of the 100 students, I was the only planetary researcher. It was an eye-opening experience on the utilitarian mind-set when space/planets are considered. The other 99 students were engineers and a few other space law people. It was easy to notice the lack of researchers in the social sciences, i.e. sociologists, anthropologists, ethicists, etc., and therefore the lack of Human representativeness. I find it important that through Europlanets the convergence of disciplines is fostered, and true Earth-global voices are listened to. Not only business as fast and quick fixes for whatever human “disaster”. There is a need to ponder and evaluate, and long term as possible, the consequences of our actions. As I mentioned, there is also a need to disentangle the concept of space that means only Earth Orbit versus the reminder of the Solar System. In this, it is important to also educate people beyond the utilitarian view of space, we need to educate all sorts of stakeholders about our human connection with the Solar System and its importance for us as Humans, and not the other way around. It should be stressed additionally, that we are from Earth, and Earth is not ours, and extend this to other planetary bodies. This is especially important for us Europeans to assess our history and learn how our actions have impacted the planetary ecosystem we depend on, and how we have disturbed its natural sustainability, which serves as an example in how we appreciate other planetary bodies.

**Dr. Robert Luther, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin:** Dear Mr. Nienass, thank you for your time. I'd like to know, how much politicians are organised to discuss space affairs. Today, you showed us your ideas, and I am curious to know, how much these ideas reflect your own position, the one of the Green party, or also of a kind of a Parliament Space Panel including all European fractions in parliament. Which political structures do exist, which, e.g. take advice from lobbyists?

Second, I'd like to know if you see the risk that, if Europe focusses on growing small highly specialised companies, these small companies can easily be bought and absorbed by e.g. large US companies like what SpaceX is growing into? This would probably contradict European interests of autonomous space access.