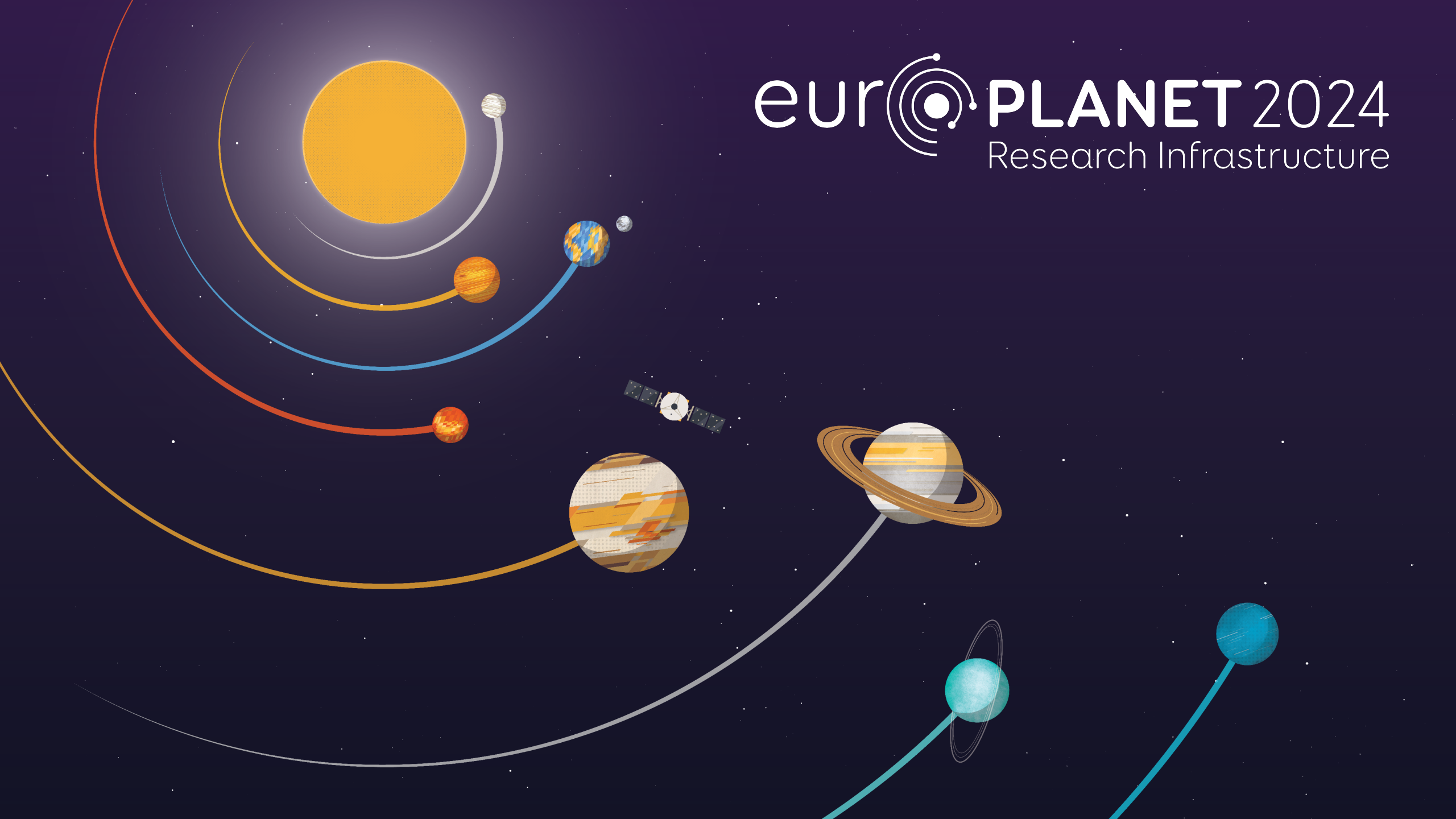
Task 8 – Policy Engagement

EPN 2024 RI

Council Meeting

Policy Team

Leading Policy Team (EILST)
in collaboration with
- Europlanet Management,
- Industry Officer,
- Regional Hub Policy Officer (INAF)


europlanet 2024
Research Infrastructure

MAIN TASKS

- Develop/maintain communication channels w/members of EP, EC, Committees, Space Agencies
- Identify key events and priorities in the European Parliament relevant to planetary science
- Attend and organise policy events
- Support the Regional Hubs in developing policy engagement programmes

Deliverable: D11.7 - Policy Engagement Sustainability Plan (M37)

POLICY WORK SO FAR

Since 2010, Europlanet has had an active programme of engaging policy makers with the cutting-edge science and technological challenges of planetary science and exploration.

- organised one-to-one briefings, dinner debates, exhibitions and other events aimed at Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials and key industry and policy groups.

- participated in policy events and conferences e.g. the annual EU Space Policy Conference, and co-organised policy sessions at meetings (e.g. the "Making the Case for Astronomy" session at the European Astronomical Society (EAS) meeting in 2018-2020).

- worked to build strategic relationships with other related organisations (e.g. the European Astronomical Society, EGU, DPS).

POLICY WORK SO FAR

Exhibition in the European Parliament

Europlanet took part in an exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels, as part of a week of events for the 8th European Innovation Summit (8th EIS) and the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Annual Lecture from 14-18th November 2016. The Europlanet display included a model of the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (contributed by the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, BIRA-IASB) and a Virtual Reality experience for exploring the sights and sounds of the surface of Mars using real data from NASA missions (contributed by VR2Planets).

POLICY WORK SO FAR - Dinner Debates

24th April 2018

Planetary Exploration: Inspiring European Innovation (Host: MEP M-J Marinescu)

27th April 2016

The Impact of the EU on Planetary Science' (Host: MEP C. Moody)

27th February 2013

'Not just from Venus... Women in Planetary Science and Exploration' (Hosts: MEPs R. Thomson, V. Prodi)

POLICY CONSEQUENCES in the Covid Era

- Key face-to-face policy networking activities debilitated due to lockdown
- Modified calendar of activities of European Parliament - revised calendar continuously updated as outbreak evolves daily
- Various meetings, events, conferences and summits, including those organised by committees and political groups, postponed or cancelled.
- Shift of focus at the European parliament meetings; plenary agendas concern mostly coronavirus-related issues
- The Commission stepped up funding for coronavirus related research compared to other research fields.
- EU focus on longer term recovery strategy in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework
- Budget allocated to enhance EU leadership in space reduced from €16 billion to €13.2 billion
- Horizon Europe budget reduced from €94.4 billion to €80.9 billion

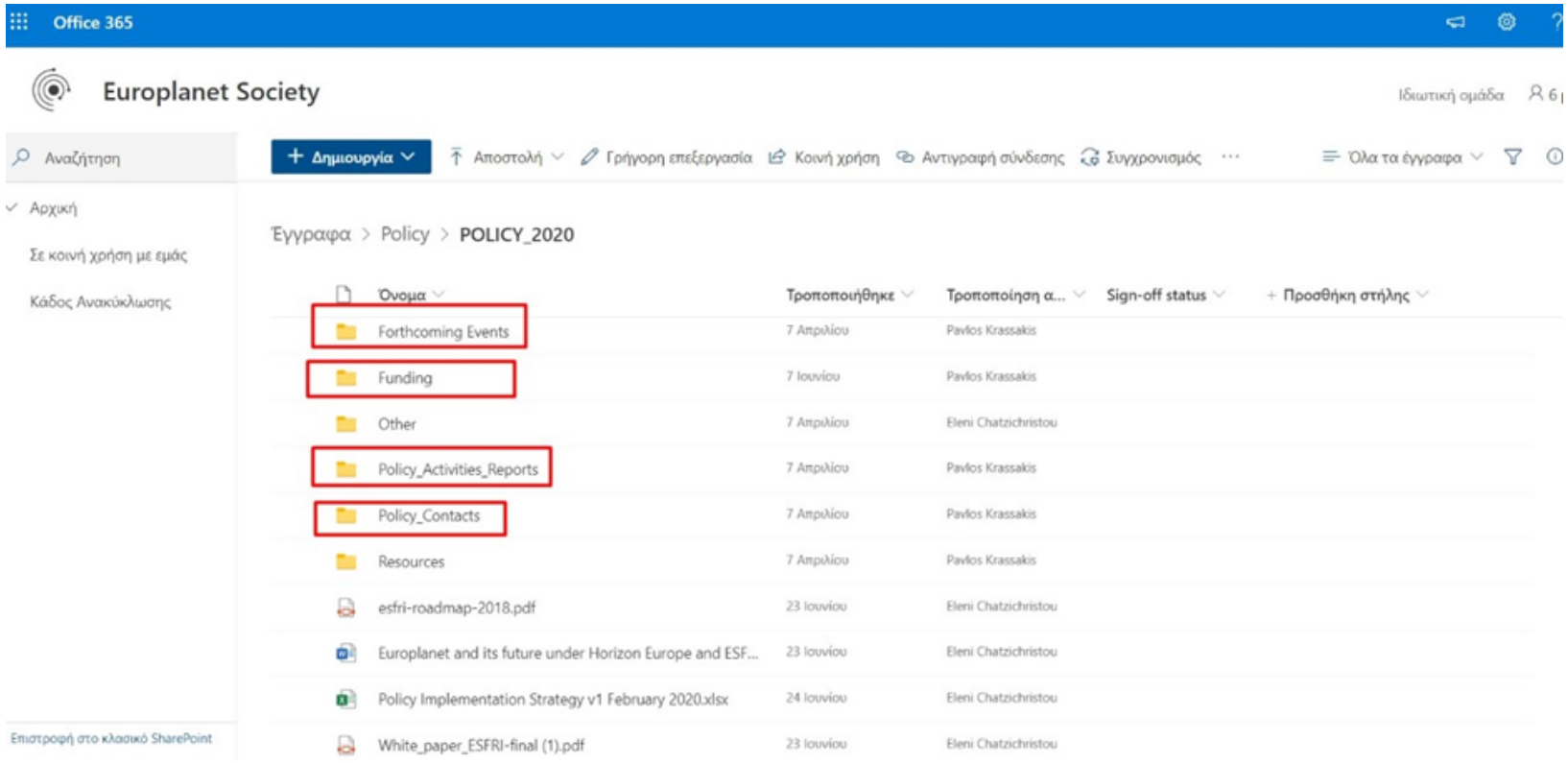
POLICY WORK in the Covid Era

Policy implementation action plan:

- Establishment of an updated list of MEPs and Policy Contacts
- Continuous monitoring of sites, press communications, virtual events, web-streamed meetings at: European Parliament, Council of the EU, European Commission, Science/ Energy/Research Committees, Space Agencies, for identifying networking opportunities
- Policy report updates, contribution to Europlanet Society Newsletter
- Identify funding opportunities and upcoming events of interest to Europlanet community
- Virtual Policy-Industry Session EPSC 2020

POLICY WORK in the Covid Era

Sharepoint Policy 2020 Folder:



POLICY WORK in the Covid Era

Sharepoint Policy 2020 Folder

- Policy Contacts:
    - MEPs including teams, keywords of activities, social media etc.
    - other policy contacts (EC officials, scientists, committees, agencies, etc)

whose profile (committee membership, activities, posts) may be related to space

- Forthcoming events
- Funding Opportunities
- Policy Reports
- Resources, briefing sheets, etc.

POLICY WORK in the Covid Era

Virtual Policy - Industry session at EPSC 2020

Focus:

- The essential role of space as a strategic asset for Europe
- Raising awareness of the opportunities to fully develop and exploit the potential of European Space Programmes
- Funding opportunities; challenging decisions in the context of Horizon Europe in times of crisis
- Industry - Research collaboration for Innovation: the benefits for society and growth
- Painting the landscape of Planetary research in Europe - Future missions and the role of Agencies

Debate: how Europe's Planetary Exploration programme can drive innovation and competitiveness in European Research, Industry and SMEs, impact the society and inspire the next generation of Europe's STEM workforce.

significant attendance, interesting Q&As

POLICY WORK in the Covid Era

Virtual Policy - Industry session at EPSC 2020

Essential role of planetary exploration, need to maintain generous spac funding in comparison to the significant cuts by the EU in July 2020 **(MEP Papadimoulis)**

Space technology is about exploration but also about sustainability which creates benefits. Give public decision makers more tools in orde to find more solutions **(MEP Niniisto)**

Politicians need to figure out the European space strategy, they need to understand why space is important. We need more scientists to lobby politicians. Need to promote European space fairing ; elaborate from science fiction to science **(MEP Nienass)**

EU space policy and space funding: need to foster better integration with space assets **(EC officer Spiechowitz)**

- *"The Essential Role of Planetary Science and Space Exploration"*
- *"Space policy and technology in broader EU policies"*
- *"More science, less fiction"*
- *"EU Space Policy"*
- *"Cooperating with SMEs - a researchers perspective"*
- *"ESA's achievements in planetary sciences"*

- **Dimitris Papadimoulis**, MEP GR, Coalition of the Radical left, VP of European Parliament
- **Ville NIINISTÖ**, MEP FI, Group of the Greens/Europe Free Alliance
- **Niklas Nienaß,** MEP GE, Group of the Greens/Europe Free Alliance
- **Michal Spiechowicz,** European Commission (DG DEFIS)
- **Jörn Helbert,** German Aerospace Center (DLR), Dept Head Planetary Laboratories
- **Fabio Favata,** ESA Head of Strategy, Planning&Coordination Office Directorate of Science

https://vimeo.com/showcase/7612895/video/463129579

POLICY WORK - follow up (still) in the Covid Era

- Keep up the established contact with responsive stake holders and engage them in concrete actions: host future dinner debates, co-organize one-to-one briefings, invite to Europlanet events, newsletter & policy reports mailing list, etc
- Enlarge our MEP+teams data base on above occasions
- Involve hub policy officers to liaise to national events to which targeted MEPs will be invited.
- Create database of Europlanet officials/planet. scientists willing to participate to policy events
- Produce a promotional Europlanet video with key messages from MEPs and stake holders
- Co-create promotional material, update briefings
- Policy workshop with other distributive RIs (Nigel)