

Letter from Dr Jorg Hahn, European Space Agency

-----Message d'origine-----

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Cc : Marco.Falcone@esa.int

Objet : CCTF (Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency), meeting of representatives 31.03.2004 at BIPM

Dear Prof. Leschiutta, Dear Mrs. Arias,

the Galileo Project Office is well aware about recent discussions on the future of leap seconds. We understand that this discussion is to a certain level also important for the upcoming Galileo system.

It is our intention to follow as much as possible international standards and recommendation, i.e.

Recommendation S6 (1999): Future global navigation satellite systems, approved by the 88th meeting of the Comité International des Poids et Mesures (CIPM) as Recommendation 1 (CI-1999).

This is also the reason why we decided to steer Galileo's System Time (GST) towards TAI and to disseminate all information with respect to UTC to the users.

In the light of your considerations in your upcoming meeting we would like to express the following:

- Galileo intends to follow international standards and recommendations
- We would appreciate that any decision to discontinue leap seconds (and on its effective date) should be made in the near future, i.e. well before the Galileo system starts to operate (start of full operation planned for 2008). We would like to ensure - by following your recommendations - that the Galileo system is not faced to any discontinuities in particular for what concerns its reference time scale. Such events could impact the provision of our services which is in particular critical for the Safety of Life Service.

I would appreciate that you take our opinion into account and look forward to future communications on the matter with you.

Yours sincerely

Dr. J. Hahn

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Galileo Project Office