



**An astronomical voice
in Europe**

Pamela Mortimer

Royal Astronomical Society

UK

AIM

- **EAS to become a more effective advocate of European Astronomy**
- **To consider creating a dedicated resource within EAS to increase the effectiveness of the astronomical voice in Europe**

BENEFITS

- **Increased awareness of activities ongoing in the political and funding spheres**
- **Ability to influence decision makers**
- **Increased & coherent representations to Brussels**
- **Engage in relevant European Policy making**
e.g. responses to consultations, possibly legislative proposals etc

RAS Experience

- **Council political engagement**
- **Parliamentary engagement**
- **Policy and Press Officer**
- **Astronomy Forum**
- **Funding Bodies**
- **Improved relationships and success**

OPTION – EAS in house


- **Establish a position of Policy Officer in EAS and then a Policy Group**
- **Agree a formally described structure for the evolution of European Policy**
- **Establish a system to bring together comments on draft policy position papers**
- **Bi annual policy meetings- review and horizon scan.**

SHARED OWNERSHIP

- **Essential to ensure :**
 - **Proper representation of both large and small scale participating countries**
 - **Membership not too large to make it ineffective**
 - **Coalition of the willing**
 - **Agree a funding profile**

Alternative approaches

- Approach the EU, through Parliamentarians
- Seek to establish a group to consider astronomy in Europe
- Essential to ensure that the EAS is aligned if not embedded in such a structure
- Other approaches ?



DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS/ FEEDBACK

Pamela Mortimer

pm@ras.org.uk