

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

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**ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP**

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**Recommendation on Communication**

At the 115th meeting held on 7-8 April 2003 in ESTEC, the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) was briefed on the “Communication activities within ESA’s Science Programme” with special emphasis on its new approach based on “themes”.

While recognizing the efforts made by the Communication Office, as well as the considerable public relations potential of the “themes” approach, the AWG expressed concern on the lack of visibility of outstanding results recently obtained by ESA missions now in operation.

In view of the growing importance of public support to secure adequate funding for basic science, and because of the interest of the general public for astronomical results, the AWG urges the Executive to increase their efforts to heighten the visibility of the world-class results obtained by ESA space science missions.

*To facilitate the interaction between the scientific community and the Communication Office, the AWG recommends that efforts be made to implement the approach of “theme specialists” in charge of publicizing the results from past, ongoing and future ESA space science missions.*