

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP**

**Recommendation on BepiColombo**

At the 122<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Solar System Working Group (SSWG) held on 5 October 2006 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the SSWG was informed of a possible delay in the approval of the Cost at Completion of the BepiColombo mission. The spacecraft interface definition and, in some cases, instrument funding are conditional upon this milestone being reached. The SSWG notes that delays in this milestone will erode schedule margin on instrument development leading to an unnecessary risk. Furthermore, it was also noted that knock-on effects of delays could disadvantage the implementation of Solar Orbiter.

**The SSWG therefore recommends that the Executive proceeds with CaC approval at all possible speed.**