

A kind of World where Prominent Astronauts along with Space Research Leaders, Linking Science and Technology with Humanity Values, would Make a Day Historic, after “Landing” in Romania

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Abstract

The paper analysed the practical and historic relevance of the 45th anniversary of a Romanian's first flight into space, Dorin-Dumitru Prunariu (DDP), celebrated at Romanian Academy, in Bucharest, on May 14, 2026, considering the remarkable potential of the joint capacities of the involved personalities (9 astronauts, together with some prominent space research leaders) to move and inspire forward their demonstrated and still actual facts, messages and activities, at international levels, as all of these having new and increasing significances just due to the dramatic needs of the humanity, facing the actual or future World dynamic challenges and crises, which seems more and more close to reach unprecedented or no return thresholds threatening the humankind survival on Earth.

From the messages of these crusaders of space, we have noticed, as it was also wonderfully presented at the Bucharest event, that it is important to understand its main content, i.e., that the real progress of humankind, in his struggle to progress and survive in this corner of the Universe, could come from providing to the humanity the best force, today and tomorrow, by promoting and advancing the most powerful human models, in all the essential directions of science, technology and human determination, against all the odds, on Earth or in the space. These models were truly illustrated always by the astronauts, from DDP to Artemis 2 NASA astronauts, addressing the humanity's fundamental need to follow the integrated purposes of apogee and survival by identifying the necessary "tools". At the event, Julie Payette, revealing the DDP contributions to space research context and astronauts organizations, speaking as ASE President, essentially pointed that, promoting peaceful cooperation for space research is a mean of advancing the ways our planet is facing its science, technology and humanitarian challenges and also that the dialog, diplomacy and the willingness to find common way to move forward "are the tools of progress and the tools of survival", adding consistent arguments for the historic feature of the event ("Dear Dorin, no one I know embodies this truth more fully than you do and it is precisely why we are here, celebrating his historic flight and the life service that followed it").

The paper final conclusion is that the announced IAA decision to recognize DDP as Honorary Member of IAA, i.e., on the short list of 10 where Yuri Gagarin is the first (while today the World have more than 600 astronauts),

just fulfilled the significance and substance of this event to be a historic one, not only for Romania, but also for all countries of a World where such values would be understood as essential for Earth and humankind sustainable progress, toward humanity apogee and survival. Watching the actual mentioned Earth challenges and crises, we have to admit that it seems how this day would be unforgettable just in a desired kind of World we dream of. That is why, some of us could only hope that such models will be eventually followed and other fairy days will come again, in Romania and all over the World, for humanity.

Keywords: Nadia Comăneci, Julie Payette, Dorin-Dumitru Prunariu, Pascale Ehrenfreund, space research leaders, astronauts, International Academy of Astronautics, Association of Space Explorers, Moon Village, UN COPUOS, COSPAR, asteroid, European Space Agency

JEL Classification: L63; L86; L93; M15; O31; O33

***“Per Aspera Ad Astra”
Seneca***

1. From the flying in cosmos of the first Romanian, Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu, to the wisdom message of 9 astronauts, together with space research leaders, "landing" in Romania

The sound of “*What a wonderful world*” (remembering Louis Armstrong song) is inspiring most of us every time, but, sometimes, some of us really could believe that as possible.

Anyway, in our actual World of crises and dramatic challenges (global warming, Earth resources fading, social and geopolitical unbalances etc.), there are days when some of us could feel that all is falling apart or goes wrong, in spite of the continuous benefits, we could not ignore, which come from the humankind advances of science and technology.

This way one could ask: where is the realistic approach, to treat the anxiety causes or to continue building the future in a business-like usual way?

Also, one could say that the recent World history showed that the humanity progress is mainly build by the optimistic constructors and less by the pessimistic thinkers, but we believe that every step/context must be considered and especially re-considered when we are close to the edge of surviving risks, or in the 12th hour [3][2][6][15][17]. Also, it is worth to recall that the Descartes methodic doubt could sometimes be useful and especially today, when World uncertainties are increasing.

Of course, the history of humanity showed long time ago that looking for a single truth is like “*blowing in the wind*” (remembering Bob Dylan song), or at least not a realistic approach of the complex systems.

Still, the same history showed that one of the humankind progress roots is the capacity and liberty to dream and to *imagine* (remembering John Lennon song).

More than these, the historic achievements of some prominent World personalities proved that their examples had considerable positive influence on mobilizing people and generating realistic progress in diverse activity areas, along with obvious emotional consequences.

Here, although a long list could be given, we just see some recent ones, which had or might have a World impact, even beyond Romania frontiers.

The recent 50th anniversary of Ms. Nadia Comăneci 1976 performance is no doubt the most prominent and it would merit a special historic story to be told, in the future.

Due to the huge impact and media information already known, we consider, in our paper context, that the historic performance of Nadia Comăneci at Montreal in 1976 to make a perfect exercise (“1” showing the computers inability to display a 10) provided for humanity the expectation that even the apparent impossible could be realized by human determination, commitment and teaming, inspiring people all around the World, even in areas beyond sports.

We have to notice that here, teaming should remember that Romanian gymnastic teams continued to be World leaders many consecutive Olympic Games, following Nadia Comăneci 1976 event, with or even without her.

This way we have just arrived to the next example, in fact the main of our paper, to be analysed, mostly due to relevance, but also meeting similitudes with Nadia Comăneci mentioned anniversary.

In humankind history, there are many days and great people to remember, due to remarkable/genial events, achievements or even ideas/thoughts, although people did not have every time metrics to measure their relevance and usually only the following years confirmed them.

Speaking of the importance of a cosmos flight, in the World there are more than 600 astronauts who did it, but later, each of them eventually added facts and achievements, continuing to service the space research or other noble humanity purposes.

Here we have just arrived to Mr. General-lieutenant (ret) Ph.D. Eng. Dorin-Dumitru Prunariu (DDP) and to the 45th anniversary of a Romanian’s first flight into space, from May14, 1981, on May 14, 2026, celebrated at Romanian Academy - Bucharest (in fact, some full days of events, including the Romanian Parliament and universities from Brasov and Sibiu), where focus was not only on the remarkable activities of DDP, continuous from 1981 till present, but also on the context where he, teaming other astronauts and leaders, present or not in Bucharest, continued to fulfil their noble missions on Earth or in cosmos, as some of them had more than one flight/mission or other honorable national or international appointments.



Source: [1] <https://www.youtube.com/live/2BPU3nukuKY?is=9jKwx6xjVraLVNJ>

Being invited to the main event at the Session of the Romanian Academy, we witnessed, by the involved personalities and their delivered interventions, a huge force of humankind creation made of the chosen few astronauts and space research leaders producing a historic demonstration of the needed high expertise, humanity unity and inspiration, for the sustainable progress on Earth of actual and future generations.

This way, some impressive facts and informations have built up for making the day unforgettable and quite a historic one, for DDP, Bucharest, Romania and humanity unity and noble purposes of Earth ecosystem apogee and survival in the actual World dramatic context.

Still, if such impression could appear subjective or overdone, firstly we will approach at least the most relevant concrete facts associated with this event.

The event was honored by the presence of **9 astronauts, together with some prominent space research leaders** [1].



Source: [1] <https://www.youtube.com/live/2BPU3nukuKY?is=9jKwx6xjVraLVNJ>

MS. JULIE PAYETTE (*with live speech presentation*)

She flew **two missions in space** for the construction of the International Space Station: STS96 (in 1999) and STS127 (in 2009). She has flown 611 hours in space and over 1500 hours in various types of aircraft. In between flights, Ms. Julie Payette worked as a liaison officer in Russia, Japan and Europe, and held the position of CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator), the voice of NASA's Mission Control Centre in Houston. After her career in space, Ms. Julie Payette worked as a science diplomat in Washington DC. In 2013, she was appointed Director of the Montréal Science Centre. Ms. Julie Payette is member of Board of Trustees of the International Academy of Astronautics and **President of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE)**.

The Right Honourable Julie Payette was invested as Canada's 29th Governor General (the highest and noblest position Canada has to offer its most outstanding citizens) **on October 2, 2017, and served until January 22, 2021. Her motto, PER ASPERA AD ASTRA** (Through hardship to the stars), refers to her belief in the abilities of people everywhere to achieve their potential and make discoveries for a better world through determination, co-operation and healthy living (<https://www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/former-governors-general/julie-payette>).

Ms. Julie Payette can converse in six languages and has a passion for sports and music. She has received numerous distinctions, including 29 honorary doctorates and is a Knight of the National Order.

Ms. CLAUDIE HAIGNERÉ

The first female astronaut of the French Space Agency (CNES) and the European Space Agency (ESA), **2 times in space**, to go to space and to visit the ISS, former Minister of science.

Mr. JEAN-PIERRE HAIGNERÉ

French Air Force officer and a former CNES astronaut

Mr. PEDRO FRANCISCO DUQUE

Spanish astronaut and aeronautics engineer who served as Minister of science

Mr. PAOLO NESPOLI

Team achievement awards for **3 space missions**: Mir-97 (DLR German Aerospace Center), space mission EuroMir-95 (ESA), NASA–Mir programme (NASA), space mission EuroMir-94 (ESA),

Ms. JANNICKE MIKKELSEN, Norwegian astronaut

Mr. ALPER GEZERAVCI, the first Turkish astronaut

IVAN BELLA, the first Slovak citizen to fly in space on Soyuz TM-29 in 1999

Ms. PASCALE EHRENFREUND (*with live speech presentation*)

Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund is the **President of the Committee of Space Research (COSPAR)** and Research Professor of Space Policy and International Affairs at the Space Policy Institute/George Washington University in Washington DC. **She was President of the International Space University (2021-2023) and President of the International Astronautical Federation (2019-2022). For three decades** she contributed as Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator and Team leader to ESA and NASA astronomy and planetary missions as well as experiments in low Earth orbit and on the International Space Station. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Space Foundation, on the Supervisory Board of the Netherlands Aerospace Centre and as Member of the Global Future Council on Space of the World Economic Forum. She was the Chair of the Executive Board of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) (2015-2020) and the President of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) (2013-2015). Pascale Ehrenfreund is enlisted in the **Stanford World Ranking Top 2% Scientists 2022** and holds a Master degree in Molecular Biology, a PhD in Astrophysics, and a Master degree in Management & Leadership. **The asteroid "9826 Ehrenfreund 2114 T-3" bears her name.**

Mr. JEAN MICHEL CONTANT (*with live speech presentation*)

Dr. Jean-Michel Contant is Secretary General of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). He has served IAA for nearly 30 years with secretariat offices in Paris, Bern, Bangalore and Beijing.

Ms. ADA SAMUELSON is United Nations representative from Sweden and she worked for the UN for 27 years in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. BERNARD FOING is a French scientist at the European Space Agency (ESA) and Executive Director of the International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG)

Mr. ANDY TURNAGE

Executive Director of Association of Space Explorers

Ms. AARTI HOLLA-MAINI (*with distant video speech presentation*)

Director of UN Office for Outer Space Affairs; Recognised satellite industry expert.

Ms. GABRIELLA ARRIGO (*with distant video speech presentation*)

Director of International Affairs at the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and President of International astronautical federation.

Also, remarkable presences, along with DDP, were from Romania:

Mr. MARIUS-IOAN PISO (with live speech presentation: *From the „Space bird”, a Constantin Brancusi sculpture, to cosmic space exploration*), **IAA vice-president for scientific activities** of the International Academy of Astronautics, former ROSA President (2004-2022)

Mr. DOREL BANABIC President of Technical Sciences Section of the Romanian Academy (with live speech presentation: *From Conrad Haas to Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu, The evolution of the flight in Romania*)

Mr. FLORIN PAUN

Innovation director in aerospace sector in France (former Deputy Innovation Director at ONERA and Strategy and development Director at the Competitive Pole SAFE – PACA region)

The remarkable activities and achievements which make the unique personality of DDP are largely presented in mass media and generally known, either at Romania and at international level, but we consider that, beyond the impressing relevance of their presentation by the speakers, some less known technical or detailed information, along with a few exclusive new facts, acknowledgements and recognitions, could add to the historic features of the event.

In January 1990 DDP was assigned the position of Deputy Minister to the Ministry of Transportation and Chief of the Romanian Civil Aviation Department, exercising this position for 1.5 years. In 1991 he graduated from the International Aviation Management Training Institute (IAMTI/IIFGA) located in Montreal, Canada. Between 1992 and 1993 DDP was a Co-leader of the World Bank Project on reorganization of the higher education and research system in Romania. **Since 1995, DDP has been acting as Vice-President of the European Institute for Risk, Security and Communication Management (EURISC) based in Bucharest. Between 1998 – 2004, he was the President of the Romanian Space Agency.** DDP is one of the founding members of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) back in 1985. Between 1993 and 2004 he was the permanent representative of ASE at United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) sessions. **DDP was the elected chairman of the UN COPUOS, holding this position between June 2010-June 2012.**

Between 2011 – 2014, DDP served as elected president of ASE International or as president of ASE Europe between 2010-2016. Since 2005 he has been a member of the ASE Committee on Near Earth Objects (NEO). DDP is a full member on **Board of Trustees of the International Academy of Astronautics**, since 2011 is an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy and **since 2015 a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 2012 he was appointed as one of the 15 experts of the Group of Governmental Experts on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBM), established by the UN General Assembly Resolution 65/68.** For a mandate, since 2014 until 2017, DDP was the vice-chair of the International Relations Committee of the European Space Agency (ESA). DDP was also a member of the task force elaborating a report on Space Security for Europe in the framework of the European Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), issued in 2016.

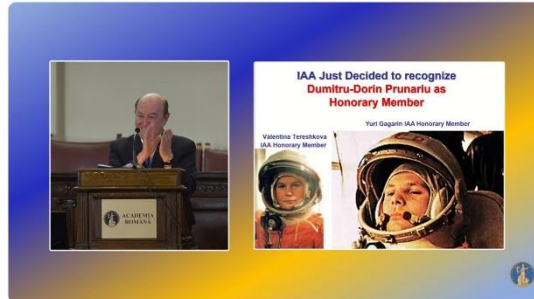
DDP is member of the Board of Directors of the Moon Village Association (MVA- a non-governmental organization, founded in 2017 in Vienna) and one of the **6 MEMBERS** of MVA Advisory Council, along with **Pascale Ehrenfreund** (<https://moonvillageassociation.org/team/>).

In 2016, at the 53rd session of UN COPUOS, on behalf of the Association of Space Explorers, DDP proposed the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of the International Asteroid Day to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908 and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard. The proposal was adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 71st session in October 2016. **Asteroid Day co-founders declared DDP as the 1st Official Asteroid Day Ambassador for his great service and for helping protect Planet Earth from asteroid impacts. In 2017 an asteroid was given the name of the first Romanian cosmonaut, respectively “Asteroid 10707 Prunariu”.**

DDP is a co-author of several books regarding space technology and space flight, has published numerous scientific papers and delivered a large number of scientific lectures to audiences all around the World. He earned a degree in aerospace engineering from the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest (1976) and a Ph.D. in the field of space flight dynamics (1999). DDP is an Honorary Citizen of several cities and Doctor Honoris Causa of several higher education institutions from Romania, Republic of Moldova and USA.

If something could be added to such huge chain of achievements of DDP, the event on May 14, 2026, really brought it.

Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund, as **President of the Committee of Space Research (COSPAR)**, offered COSPAR Medal of Honor to DDP.



Source: [1] <https://www.youtube.com/live/2BPU3nukuKY?is=9jKwx6xjVraLVNJ>

Dr. Jean-Michel Contant, as Secretary General of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), publicly announced the **IAA decision to recognize DDP as Honorary Member of IAA, i.e., on the short list of 10 where Iuri Gagarin is the first!** We notice that today the World have more than 600 astronauts!

On our opinion, this announcement just fulfilled the significance and substance of this event to be a historic one, not only for Romania, but also for all countries of a World where such values would be understood as essential for Earth and humankind sustainable progress, toward humanity apogee and survival.

- 2. Advancing communications along with satellites, while learning refined knowledge from space crusaders, for the balance of humankind apogee and survival**

We consider that the practical and historic relevance of the Bucharest May 14, 2026, event could be evaluated first by the remarkable potential of the joint capacities of the involved personalities to move and inspire forward their demonstrated and still actual facts, messages and activities, at international levels, as all of these having new and increasing significances just due to the dramatic needs of the humanity, facing the actual or future World dynamic challenges and crises, which seems more and more close to reach unprecedented or no return thresholds threatening the humankind survival on Earth, our unique home [4][7][6][12] [13][15][17] [16] [14].

As MVA acts as a permanent observer at the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to help guiding international space policy, for a concrete example, we notice the relevant presence of 2 of the above astronauts, (DDP and **Pascale Ehrenfreund**), among the 6 from MVA executive leaders and also the rigor/actuality of MVA activity (2025-2026), reflected by the recent report of MVA at COPUOS, planned for June 10-18, 2026, due to the fact that MVA launched the Global Expert Group for Sustainable Lunar Activities (GEGSLA) in 2022, a multilateral informal forum involving experts from space agencies, as well as other stakeholders such as representatives from industries and academia [4].

These confirm the principles DDP strongly promote in life and also inspired us: “it is not sufficient to participate, but to substantially contribute, it is not sufficient to recall with emotion the past, we must transform the memory into a strategy” [1].

We collaborated with DDP early from 90’s, as expert evaluators of Ministry of Research and Education, for research projects of Ministry of Defence.



In 2024, following the successful initiatives of Mr. Col. (ret) Ph.D. Eng. Anton Muraru (<https://www.crd-aida.ro/2024/03/victor-greu-echipamente-si-sisteme-romanesti-de-transmisiuni/>), at the Military National Circle (MNC), we have presented “Romanian Communication Equipments” (in March) and we met again when DDP presented the “Romanian Space Odyssey” (in June)(<https://www.crd-aida.ro/2024/06/gl-lt-rtr-dr-ing-dumitru-dorin-prunariu-odiseea-spatiala-romaneasca/>), keeping in touch since then (<https://sts.ro/ro/al-optulea-numar-al-revistei-conexiuni/>).

In a similar way, we had collaborations with Mr. Ph.D. Marius-Ion Piso (MIP), who made a very documented live presentation, mentioning, along with relevant achievements of DDP,

linked with Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) and beyond, the importance for Romania, of the Cheia satellite station (installed in 1977 by NEC, 2x32 dish, pointing Indian/Atlantic – installed only in Romania and Yugoslavia, being under embargo for the rest of communist countries). It is interesting that, since 1979 (as students in the Military Technical Academy-MTA) we have visited Cheia, and then, almost every year with our students, as professor (for Antennas; Radio Relay and Satellite Communications) and even as Head of Communications Department in MTA (MTA terrain-laboratory practice at strategic communications sites BOD, COSTILA, CHEIA). Discussing with MIP at the event break, we have remembered our collaborations from 2004-2005, at the Inter-ministerial group for security research and development (HG nr. 1574/2004, <https://www.euroavocatura.ro/monitorul-oficial/monitor-905-5-octombrie-2004>), when we represented the Special Telecommunications Service (STS) and he represented ROSA, or in the next years, when evaluating international projects/grants (even after our military retirement), in 2008 and again in 2009 (for Bulgaria National Fund for Science) or in 2013 for ROSA.

The joined space research personalities meeting in Bucharest could be seen as a force of the proven human highest capacities, determination and sacrifice/altruism to mobilize humanity ahead and change its negative trends, toward realistic ways for apogee and survival, by science, technology and human perennial values.

Consequently, we could agree that such force is one of the few examples of refined knowledge which have the chance to reverse the Earth ecosystem and humankind values negative trends, in the dramatic context of actual World challenges and crises [4][3][7][12][13][5][6][8][9][14][15][16][17].

All these could, by our opinion, create **the picture of a new kind of World, where we might foresee the way how a day could mean that much as it may be unforgettable, i.e., looking from space but understanding the wisdom that should be everywhere on Earth.** We consider that, **this way, the day could be not only unforgettable, but even historic, for Romania and beyond.**

Generally, from the message of these crusaders of space, we have to clearly notice, as it was also wonderfully presented in Bucharest on May 14, that it is important to understand its main content, i.e., **that the real progress of humankind, in his struggle to progress and survive in this corner of the Universe, could come from providing to the humanity the best force, today and tomorrow, by promoting and advancing the most powerful human models, in all the essential directions of science, technology and human determination, against all the odds, on Earth or in the space.** These models were truly illustrated always by the astronauts. The prove of above considerations is the fact that such citizens of Terra, almost in every country, are highly promoted, from organizations leaders to ministers or even vice-regal position (General Governor of Canada) - like in the case of Ms. Julie Payette.

It is not a coincidence that in many movies, when a planet is nearly dying or destroyed, its legacy is represented by the chosen few to survive and go further with a space ship. We are not allowed to forget that every time they offer even their lives for such purposes! It is also worth to

notice that similar sacrifices are needed, in years of hard training, for sports (like Nadia Comăneci did), military defending their country or other performance heroes.

Further, at the Romanian Academy, on May 14, 2026, we had to observe, even knowing the relativity of such complicate evaluations, that these astronauts and leaders brought, along with their crucial achievements and constructive force, the sublime feelings and thoughts that, only looking our blue planet from highest places where human being got, could be perceived. This way, we witnessed Ms. Julie Payette picturing the Earth beauty as made of „blue marble”, figuring, by our opinion, as a perfect sculpture that life became, but in the same time, its ineffable fragility against all inner or outer odds.

More than these, Ms. Julie Payette, continuing to reveal the DDP contributions to space research context and astronauts organizations, speaking as ASE President, had **a magic speech**, by her human emphasis on astronauts faith in their heroical crusade, where Seneca’s “*per aspera ad astra*” is also present in “Madame Payette’s coat of arms” at Bureau of the Right Honorable Madame Julie Payette (<https://www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/former-governors-general/julie-payette>), as former General Governor of Canada. We also remark the same perceptions of astronauts, a special “*bond absolutely impossible to forget, between all of us*”, emotionally presented now, about the ineffable view of Earth from space, as “*a place we can live, having no borders, Earth is the only home we have*” [1]. She also pointed that, promoting peaceful cooperation for space research is a mean of advancing the ways our planet is facing its science, technology and humanitarian challenges. Also, she recalled the astronauts record of 25 years, in 2025, of continuing presence in space (at international spatial stations), as “*a model we can work together in peace for our coming future, for our species, for our planet, today and every other day after*”, pointing that dialog, diplomacy and the willingness to find common way to move forward, “***these are the tools of progress and the tools of survival***”.

Again, we have to observe the essential aim of **space research chosen few communities, addressing the humanity’s** fundamental need to follow the integrated purposes of **apogee or survival**. This is one more confirmation of the same crucial preoccupation, in the context of World dramatic challenges and crises, we also promoted repeatedly [3][5][6][11][12][14].

Still, above all, we think it will be impossible to forget the wonderful way she pictured the place of DDP among the large and distinguished astronauts’ family:

“*Once you’ve seen the Earth from space, you cannot speak of progress, security or environment in the same way like before: humanity future depends on every single one of us, thinking beyond our divide, acting together for our planet sustainable future. Our flight became a responsibility, a duty to share, to serve and to inspire! Dear Dorin, no one I know embodies this truth more fully than you do and it is precisely why we are here, celebrating his historic flight and the life service that followed it... Witness of incommensurable beauty, fragility and unity of our planet, he championed the protection of Earth from asteroids. Dear Dorin, you were Romania ambassador to space, but now you are the space ambassador to Earth. Thank you on behalf of all astronauts!... As founder of ASE in 1985, Dorin is the only one who attended all 36 congresses of ASE and hosted 15 of them.*”

After this sensible and impressive magic speech, in the event break we had a short discussion with Ms. Julie Payette, about her live presentation and shared issues like communications, life on Earth and humanity, perhaps having among conclusions the making of the next photos she offered with the same well known kindness, dedication and human understanding she promoted everywhere, either on Earth and space.



Witnessing other speakers' facts and appreciations about cosmic research context, culminating with the recognition of DDP among the 10 honorary members of IAA, we finally have seen, in DDP clear speech, the outstanding maturity and substance of an astronaut wisdom, through the next of his unforgettable remarks/principles, reflecting his 1981 flight and his activity/achievements till present [1]:

“In 1981 it was just a beginning of a new era, the cosmic Romania, with the capacity to dream on large scale, watch over the present horizon, based on knowledge, cooperation, discipline and perseverance, as youngers to have the courage to aim high standards of performance, as it is not sufficient to participate, but to substantially contribute, seeing Romania an ESA relevant member, since 22nd of December 2011”.

We also notice that DDP shared the essential ideas of astronauts, as, *“from cosmos, perceive forever the Earth without frontiers, conflicts or vanities, the only place where we can live, seeing the humankind destiny in Universe (a matter with conscience!), with lucidity and modesty, not triumphalism, understanding the strategic dimension of space, as thinking on long term”*, pointing satellite data, progress, security.

We consider that some of DDP profound wisdom thoughts could remain this way really unforgettable, including their impressive emotional impact:

“The future of humankind will be decided not by the technological advance, but the moral understanding about ourselves - what kind of human we will be when reaching beyond other space limits ...Continuing egoisms and rivalry, the technology will not save us, just the extending of conscience and respect for life will!... The humankind is made on Earth not only to live on it, but also to understand and protect it!”

The DDP message is also inspiring us, from Romania to the stars, as *“an individual dream could become the start for a nation and further go on to the World, a call to excellence and responsibility, to look more from above, more faraway and more profound... contributing to this great conversation about future”*.



invatamant-si-cercetare/].

At MTA “Ferdinand I”, we also have Seneca’s *per aspera ad astra* as motto, plenty confirmed in 2024, at the 75th anniversary of MTA. It is worth to remark, among others, our participation at European Space Agency Millenium Conference on Antennas (Davos 2000) [<https://www.crd-aida.ro/2024/05/prof-dr-ing-victor-greu-onorat-de-academia-tehnica-militara-ferdinand-i-la-moment-aniversar-al-acestei-reputate-institutii-de->



To confirm, complete and conclude the above essential evaluations, we expressed upon the May 14 Bucharest event and beyond, we think it is worth to recall some recent facts, also from the selected world of space flights, starting with the *Artemis 2 NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch and the Canadian Space Agency's Jermey Hansen* [7]:

<< *The crew just completed a 10-day mission around the moon aboard NASA’s Orion spacecraft. It was the first mission to the moon in over half a century, and the astronauts' journey captivated the world through breathtaking imagery and the profound, often emotional human moments they experienced in space. Wiseman, the Artemis 2 commander, spoke first. “Victor, Christina and Jeremy, we are bonded forever,” he said, calling their shared experience “the most special thing that will ever happen in my life.”*

“Being 200,000-plus miles away from home — before you launch, it feels like it's the greatest dream on Earth. And when you're out there, you just want to get back to your families and your friends,” Wiseman said. “It's a special thing to be a human, and it's a special thing to be on planet Earth.” >>

We were also impressed by the new record and comeback to Moon made by NASA, but especially proud of the communications performance which enabled such emotional live thoughts coming from a longer distance than ever made, using the amazing advances of information and communications technology (ICT).

Both spatial and military advanced research/technology, sooner or later, have a driving role for other domains, after proving important benefits. A relevant example of the space research huge impact on World progress is naturally linked with the technology of live communications from longest distance, as the next examples could confirm [13]:

“So far NASA’s Artemis 2 has been spectacularly successful and today, the four astronauts – as well as the Artemis 2 Orion spacecraft itself – became the most remote Wi-Fi users of all time as Artemis 2 just a few minutes ago broke Apollo 13’s 55-year old record for longest distance from Earth...Artemis 2’s four astronauts & ‘Integrity’ capsule become the most remote Wi-Fi & WI Gig users in history. After swinging around the lunar far side and reestablishing line-of-sight, the crew utilized NASA’s Deep Space Network to restore continuous high-speed audio, video, and telemetry communications with Earth. But What is the Deep Space Network? NASA confirmed it as the world’s largest telecommunications system. The Deep Space Network—or DSN—is NASA’s international array of giant radio antennas that supports interplanetary spacecraft missions, plus a few that orbit Earth. The DSN also provides radar and radio astronomy observations that improve our understanding of the solar system and the larger universe.”

Naturally, the advanced results of spatial/satellites technology continue to also leverage the most dynamic domain of the ICT: the mobile/cellular communications [10]:

<< The decades-old “satellite-IoT” race, in which Internet of Things devices connect to satellites in orbit, has reached an inflection point in 2026. Satellite-IoT is growing in response to a rising need for connected devices in applications including livestock tracking, wildfire detection, global supply-chain monitoring, pipeline and grid sensing, and other industries where network connections can be sparse or expensive. Many anticipated satellite-IoT use cases will require two-way signalling, carrier roaming, or continuous availability—all things that are common features for cellular networks. That’s why the telecom standards body that created 4G and 5G has, as part of the development process for 6G, already settled on a satellite-IoT protocol that will make use of the upcoming generation of cellular tech, to be available sometime around 2030. >>

As usually, we have to observe, along with the huge benefits coming from ICT, the challenges we have also repeatedly mentioned [3][11][12], which **need a timely analysis of the balance apogee-survival, essential for the World sustainable progress, a message that clearly resulted too from the unforgettable event from Bucharest, made by the remarkable joined minds and facts from space research selected honorable community at his historic moment of culmination/completion.**

This day should be unforgettable due to the fact that DDP, one of the chosen few astronauts, in these 45 years, continued to pursue these noble astronauts’ purposes, by concrete and honorable facts, for the benefit of humanity and life on Earth, for apogee and survival, proving that he did not forget them. It is essential to observe that **the need of humans’ unity, toward a sustainable future model, here was unforgettably proved by the impressive human profiles joined in Bucharest/Romania, by DDP and their noble principles and qualities.**

In the same time, **watching the actual mentioned Earth challenges and crises, we have to admit that it seems how this day would be unforgettable just in a desired kind of World**

we dream of. That is why, some of us could only hope that such models will be eventually followed and other fairy days will come again, in Romania and all over the World, for humanity.

3. Conclusions

Starting from the known case of Nadia Comăneci (recent 50th anniversary of 1976 performance), we recalled the fact that historic achievements of some prominent World personalities proved that their examples had considerable positive influence on mobilizing people and generating realistic progress in diverse activity areas, the paper focusing on the practical and historic relevance of the 45th anniversary of a Romanian's first flight into space, Dorin-Dumitru Prunariu (DDP), celebrated at Romanian Academy.

The paper evaluated the Bucharest May 14, 2026 event content, first by the remarkable potential of the joint capacities of the involved personalities (**9 astronauts, together with some prominent space research leaders**) to move and inspire forward their demonstrated and still actual facts, messages and activities, at international levels, as all of these having new and increasing significances just due to the dramatic needs of the humanity, facing the actual or future World dynamic challenges and crises, which seems more and more close to reach unprecedented or no return thresholds threatening the humankind survival on Earth, our unique home.

The space research personalities meeting in Bucharest could be seen as a force of the proven human highest capacities, determination and sacrifice/altruism to mobilize humanity ahead and change its negative trends, toward realistic ways for apogee and survival, by science, technology and human perennial values, being one of the few examples of refined knowledge, in the dramatic context of actual World challenges and crises. All these could, by our opinion, create **the picture of a new kind of World, where we might foresee the way how a day could mean that much as it may be unforgettable, i.e., looking from space but understanding the wisdom that should be everywhere on Earth.**

We consider that, **this way, the day could be not only unforgettable, but even historic, for Romania and beyond**, due also to the fact that DDP, one of the chosen few astronauts, in these 45 years, continued to pursue these noble astronauts' purposes, by concrete and honorable facts, for the benefit of humanity and life on Earth, for apogee and survival. It is essential to observe that **the need of humans' unity, toward a sustainable future model, here was unforgettably proved by the impressive human profiles joined in Bucharest/Romania, by DDP and their noble principles and qualities.**

Generally, from the message of these crusaders of space, we have to clearly notice, as it was also wonderfully presented in Bucharest on May 14, 2026, that it is important to understand its main content, i.e., **that the real progress of humankind, in his struggle to progress and survive in this corner of the Universe, could come from providing to the humanity the best force, today and tomorrow, by promoting and advancing the most powerful human models, in all the essential directions of science, technology and human determination, against all the**

odds, on Earth or in the space. These models were truly illustrated always by the astronauts, from DDP to *Artemis 2 NASA astronauts*. The prove of above considerations is the fact that such citizens of Terra, almost in every country, are highly promoted, from organizations leaders to ministers or even vice-regal position (General Governor of Canada) - like in the case of Ms. Julie Payette.

In addition, Julie Payette, continuing to reveal the DDP contributions to space research context and astronauts' organizations, speaking as ASE President, had **a magic speech**, by her human emphasis on astronauts' faith in their heroical crusade. She essentially pointed that, promoting peaceful cooperation for space research is a mean of advancing the ways our planet is facing its science, technology and humanitarian challenges and also that the dialog, diplomacy and the willingness to find common way to move forward "***are the tools of progress and the tools of survival***". More than these, she added consistent arguments for the historic feature of the event ("***Dear Dorin, no one I know embodies this truth more fully than you do and it is precisely why we are here, celebrating his historic flight and the life service that followed it***").

We conclude that such messages, **addressing the humanity's** fundamental need to follow the integrated purposes of **apogee and survival** by identifying the necessary "tools", completed by DDP principles (*The technology will not save us, just the extending of conscience and respect for life will!... The humankind is made on Earth not only to live on it, but also to understand and protect it!*), are the crucial elements making the day unforgettable. We finally have seen, in DDP clear speech, the outstanding maturity and substance of an astronaut wisdom.

In addition, the announced **IAA decision to recognize DDP as Honorary Member of IAA, i.e., on the short list of 10 where Iuri Gagarin is the first** (while today the World have more than 600 astronauts), **just fulfilled the significance and substance of this event to be a historic one, not only for Romania, but also for all countries of a World where such values would be understood as essential for Earth and humankind sustainable progress, toward humanity apogee and survival.**

Realistically, in the same time, **watching the actual mentioned Earth challenges and crises, we have to admit that it seems how this day would be unforgettable just in a desired kind of World we dream of.** That is why, some of us could only **hope that such models will be eventually followed and other fairy days will come again, in Romania and all over the World, for humanity.**

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