

A Career at ESAROM SPACE

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Simonetta Cheli

Director of Earth Observation Programmes, ESA Head of ESA ESRIN Establishment

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Hi, my name is Simonetta Cheli

And I work at the European Space Agency



My Current Role at ESA...





Academic Background

- > Degree in Political Sciences/International Relations in Florence with a thesis on the telecommunication satellites and international law at the UN in New York.
- > Law and Economic Studies at Yale University/US (Aspen Institute).

Continued Studies and Self-Development

- > Japan Young Professional Study Programme for CEC trainees.
- Master Degree in Diplomatic and Strategic Studies at CEDS (Centre d'études Diplomatiques Stratégiques) in Paris.
- Continued development in Management, Marketing, Leadership, Selection/Interviews, Presentations
- > Fluent in five languages IT, EN, FR, ES, DE

My academic background and continued growth has helped a lot in my job at ESA

First Jobs



- > Volunteer jobs at NGO's like Amnesty International and Clubs UNESCO.
- Worked at the European Commission in Brussels in the Cabinet of Commissioner for audio visual policy (1987-1988).
- Research Contract in Italy with CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)

My first professional experience in Brussels helped me navigate ESA/EU relations for many years to come

First Steps at ESA Since 1988



> From 1988 to 1997

Director General's Cabinet - International Relations

ESA Headquarters (Paris, France)

- Responsible for ESA International Relations
 - > European Commission in Brussels
 - ➤ Bilateral **ESA/Japan** Annual Meeting
 - Negotiation with legal affairs on bilateral cooperation agreements with Central and Eastern European Countries
 - Promotion of space related technologies through Cooperative programmes with Governmental, Regional and International organizations (CEC, Eutelsat, FAO, African development Bank, WEU, United Nations)



Living Planet 20 Symposium 22 Cesa

> From 1997 to 1999

Directorate of Strategy and International Relations

ESA Headquarters (Paris, France)

- > Responsible for ESA Strategy
 - > Support Director General on ESA's strategy
 - ➤ In charge of Relations with Member States of ESA and European organisations
 - Advisory Board member of the United Nations Technical
 Commission VII Resources and Environment Monitoring
 - Representing ESA as observer in the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly and Council of Europe

I learned to negotiate international agreements & work on projects outside of Europe (Africa/Japan)

Moving to Earth Observation in Rome/Frascati





> From 1999 to 2007

Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

ESA ESRIN (Frascati, Rome)

- > Head of the Public and Institutional Relations Office
 - Institutional Relations and communication activities with Italy, Spain and Portugal
 - Coordination of corporate communication activities of ESA, in the field of Earth Observation, Satellite Navigation and Telecommunications
 - Communication activities for ESRIN and ESAC (Spain)
 - > Media relations, partnerships, ESA Web page
 - > Responsible for Exhibits, VIP visits, PR material
 - Satellite launch communication campaigns (Artemis, Envisat, Swarm, Cryosat, GOCE, Giove B, etc.)

Here I learned about the fascinating world of Satellite Earth Observation

Taking on a New Role at ESRIN



I was representing ESA as a spokes-person and had to study in depth all projects & activities

From 2007 to 2017

- Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes
- > ESA ESRIN (Frascati, Rome) ESA Headquarters (2015 to 2017)

Head of Coordination Office

- Relations with EU, European Organisations and ESA Member States
- Relations with Meteorological Organizations (Eumetsat, ECMWF, WMO)
- Coordination of International Relations for the Directorate and relations with International Organizations including CEOS and GEO
- Coordinating the Director's Office (preparation of Council, Ministerial meetings, etc.)
- Coordination of communication activities for the Directorate (meetings, launch campaigns, exhibits, VIP visits etc.)
- Representing ESA in International fora (e.g. UN, COP)
- Member of the European Commission GMES Advisory Committee and ESA joint undertaking

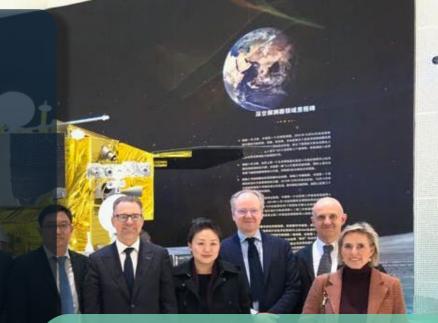


> From 2017 to 2021

Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

ESA Headquarters (Paris, France)

- Head of Strategy, Programme & Coordination Office
 - ➤ Manage team of 25 people over 4 ESA sites
 - Reporting to the Director of EOP
 - Coordinate relations with Members States and EU institutions
 - > Manage the Programme Board
 - > Prepare Council and Ministerial Council
 - > Manage EO international relations and communication
 - > Ensure the internal coordination in the EO Directorate



I learned to manage a team, interact with other directorates, and take stock of all I had done in the previous 20 years at ESA to plan the next step

A new challenge since January 2022



- > Tackle the priorities of 2022, including preparations of ESA summit and the Ministerial 2022
- > Continue evolving in a cooperative European environment with long-term strategy vision
- > Continue working at ESA in a job I enjoy and find stimulating



Director of EO Programmes & Head of ESRIN

If you like Space...
If you like multi-cultural environments...
And intercultural exchanges...
If you want to cooperate internationally on technology, science and innovation...
If you want to be at the centre of European and worldwide challenges...

Then ESA is the place for you!
Then ESA is where you want to be!

Space is fascinating...

Space is a great place to work!

My Advise to You

