



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 September 2012

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COVER NOTE

from: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 19 September 2012

to: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European
Union

No Cion doc.: C(2012) 6517 final

Subject: Commission Decision of 19.9.2012 on the Signature of a Joint Statement on
Space Technology Cooperation

Delegations will find attached Commission document C(2012) 6517 final.

Encl.: C(2012) 6517 final



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 19.9.2012
C(2012) 6517 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.9.2012

on the signature of a Joint Statement on Space Technology Cooperation

COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.9.2012

on the signature of a Joint Statement on Space Technology Cooperation

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Major non-EU markets with strong growth rates represent significant opportunities for EU enterprises including small and medium enterprises. Helping them to better exploit their potential in the global arena is a clear priority to boost competitiveness and create employment. Reinforcing industrial cooperation in space will contribute to achieve this goal;
- (2) The proposed Joint Statement is in line with and complementary to EU policies as it supports, *inter alia*, the creation of an environment favorable to the development of enterprises;
- (3) The proposed Joint Statement between the European Union and the People's Republic of China has no financial implications;
- (4) The proposed Joint Statement does not, nor is it intended to, create any binding or legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Commission approves the Joint Statement between the European Union and the People's Republic of China and authorises the Member responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, acting in his capacity as a Vice-President of the Commission, to sign it on behalf of the European Union.

Done at Brussels, 19.9.2012

For the Commission
Antonio TAJANI
Vice-President

ANNEX

Joint Statement on Space Technology Cooperation

Both the European Union and the People's Republic of China recognize that space capabilities and applications play key roles in economic and social development and industrial competitiveness in their respective territories.

Following the consensus achieved at the 14th EU-China Summit, further to the signature of the Elements of Consensus by Minister Wan Gang and Vice President Tajani, the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST), and the European Commission, Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, agree to sign the following Joint Statement:

1. Both sides welcome the establishment of the Dialogue on Space Technology Cooperation by the European Commission (EC), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of the People's Republic of China (MOST), they appreciate the achievements of its first meeting and intend to explore extensive cooperation areas in the field of space technology.
2. Both sides acknowledge that the EU-China Satellite Navigation Cooperation is a key element of the China-EU-ESA Dialogue on Space Technology Cooperation. Following the signature of the Elements of Consensus, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be signed to confirm future cooperation activities. Both sides intend to enhance the cooperation and demonstration between Galileo, EGNOS systems and Compass system with the aim of promoting peaceful development between the different global satellite navigation systems in the world. Both sides welcome the agreement to continue the China-Europe GNSS Technology Training and Cooperation Centre, the progress on IOV projects, look forward to the resolution of the Galileo/EGNOS and Compass frequency issue under the ITU Framework and welcome the agreement for an ITU coordination meeting in December 2012 in Paris.
3. In the area of earth observation and earth science, both sides intend to strengthen the current cooperation foundation between universities, scientific institutes and industries, and promote the sustainable development of ongoing cooperation projects and the sharing of data and achievements, in particular in the areas of land cover mapping and climate change, particularly in the context of the EU Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).
4. Both sides note the ongoing cooperation between ESA and the Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA) and their willingness to facilitate exchange and development between their respective space exploration missions; both sides encourage the participants to the dialogue to prepare the follow-up conference on space exploration which will be held towards end 2013.
5. Both sides call for the establishment of an Action Plan to implement practical cooperation in the field of space technology, including a roadmap and appropriate events to evaluate progress.

This Joint Statement expresses political will and is not intended to create any legal or financial obligations.

Done in Brussels on 20th September 2012, in English and Chinese languages, each text being equally authentic.

Vice President Antonio Tajani
Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry
European Union

Minister Wan Gang
Ministry of Science and Technology
People's Republic of China