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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on "Space Strategy for Europe"
- Presidency text

With a view to the Space Working Party meeting on 16 February 2017, delegations will find attached the first Presidency draft of Council conclusions on "Space Strategy for Europe".

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON

"A Space Strategy for Europe"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)¹ establishes an EU shared competence in Space;

HAVING REGARD to the Framework Agreement between the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA)²;

HAVING REGARD to its resolutions and orientations adopted and those of the "Space Council", notably the Resolutions on "The European space policy"³, "Taking forward the European Space Policy"⁴, "The Contribution of space to innovation and competitiveness in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan, and further steps"⁵, as well on "Global challenges, taking full benefit of European space systems"⁶; and WELCOMING the progress achieved by the Commission and ESA in the implementation of the European Space Policy;

HAVING REGARD to the Council Conclusions on "Underpinning the European space renaissance: orientations and future challenges" of 5 December 2014⁷;

TAKING NOTE of the Communication from the European Commission on a European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) of 30 November 2016⁸;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcome of the ESA Ministerial Council, held in Luzern on 1-2 December 2016;

¹ In particular Articles 4 and 189

² OJ L 261 of 6.8.2004, p. 64.

³ doc. 10037/07

⁴ doc. 13569/08

⁵ doc. 10500/09

⁶ doc. 16864/10

⁷ doc. 16502/14

⁸ doc. 15160/16

Introduction

1. WELCOMES the Communication of the European Commission on a Space Strategy for Europe⁹, presented on 26 October 2016, (hereinafter referred to as “the Strategy”) which aims to set out a long-term strategic vision for the European Space sector and related activities for the years to come.
2. EXPRESSES satisfaction with the open, transparent and inclusive process carried out by the Commission to prepare the Strategy, where EU Member States and all other relevant actors have been fully involved.
3. CONSIDERS that in addition to the continued evolution of space infrastructures, the time is ripe to further capitalise on the potential of Space through the development and use of concrete applications and services based on space data.
4. ACKNOWLEDGES that proper coordination and complementarity with the activities pursued by the EU, ESA and their respective Member States will be essential for the success of the space sector in Europe and WELCOMES the Joint statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the future of Europe in Space¹⁰, signed on 26 October 2016 by the Commission on behalf of the EU and by ESA.
5. STRESSES the need to maximise the potential of Space into the everyday life for the benefit of the European society and economy by: increasing the use of space technologies and applications to support public policies and provide effective solutions to the complex societal challenges; fostering a globally competitive European space sector, by supporting research, innovation, entrepreneurship for growth and jobs across all Member States, and seizing larger shares of global markets; ensuring European autonomy in accessing and using Space in a safe and secure environment, in particular through the consolidation and protection of its space infrastructures, including against cyber and space weather threats.

⁹ doc. 13758/16

¹⁰ doc. 12808/1/16 REV 1

Maximising the benefits of Space for society and the EU economy

6. RECOGNISES the progress underway in the deployment of the EU space flagship programmes, Copernicus¹¹, Galileo and EGNOS¹², which are, or are about to become, fully operational, and strongly SUPPORTS their continuity and sustainable user-driven evolution in order to build critical mass, create predictability, and attract long-term commitments.
7. STRESSES the opportunities for science and the potential great benefits that space data, including satellite navigation and geo-spatial integrated applications, services and products, coupled with the rapid development of the digital economy, can offer to the private and public sector, as well as to society at large.
8. SUPPORTS the establishment of European industry-led services platforms, in complementarity to the European Cloud, to aggregate Copernicus data and offer appropriate dissemination and access to data, notably for European businesses, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), to reduce the current dependency on non-EU sources and to develop a globally competitive space data ecosystem in Europe.
9. WELCOMES the declaration of Galileo initial services¹³ and NOTES the Commission's objective to foster the introduction of Galileo in specific markets, as well as measures to encourage that new chipsets and receivers put on the European market are Galileo and EGNOS compatible.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 44–66).

¹² Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 876/2002 and Regulation (EC) No 683/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 1–24).

¹³ Of 15 December 2016

10. SUPPORTS the inclusion of targeted capacity-building measures in the Strategy aiming at particularly assisting the Member States and regions with emerging and innovative space capabilities and solutions and INVITES the Commission to set up a platform to accompany the balanced evolution of the European space economy.
11. STRESSES the importance of additional services to be considered to meet emerging needs in specific priority areas; NOTES the areas already identified by the Commission in its Communication and INVITES the Commission to make proposals regarding such priority areas following close consultation with all relevant actors.

Fostering a globally competitive, innovative European space sector

12. ACKNOWLEDGES that a globally competitive European space sector must be closely connected with society and the economy and should remain sustainable, safe, secure, and being readily and easily accessible, operating in line with the principle of excellence in science and technology.
13. RECOGNISES that the space sector is rapidly evolving and that the European space industry is under pressure from new dynamics in the market; CONSIDERS that European space industrial competitiveness should be strengthened by means of: underpinning European non-dependence in critical space technologies and systems; fostering a sustainable supply chain and promoting access to export markets; facilitating innovation, business opportunities and industrial capacity.
14. STRESSES that, in order for European space industry to react promptly to evolutions and remain competitive on a global stage, it is crucial that the Commission, in close cooperation with Member States and ESA, develops actions to intensify synergies and interlinkages between space and other relevant policy areas, including education, research, and innovation, to facilitate bringing research solutions to the market, in particular as regards R&D activities within the ambit of the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation.

15. ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to increase efforts to remove technical and regulatory barriers as well as provide, where appropriate, measures to public and private players, including support to innovative start-ups and scale-ups to develop applications based on space data and technologies, particularly by ensuring better market access and conditions, by promoting smart financing and outreach activities.

Reinforcing Europe's autonomy in accessing and using Space

16. SUPPORTS the creation of an aggregated demand for cost-effective European launch services to ensure an independent and autonomous access to Space and INVITES the Commission to act as the prime institutional customer of the European launchers' sector, as well as to anticipate future technological and market developments and opportunities.
17. RECOGNISES that space technology and derived services contribute to providing solutions to security challenges and ACKNOWLEDGES the need for stronger synergies to be pursued between the civilian and military use of space assets, while guaranteeing the civil status of the programmes.
18. TAKES NOTE of the intention of the Commission, in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Defence Agency (EDA) and ESA, to assess and prepare a Governmental Satellite Communications (GOVSATCOM) initiative to ensure reliable, secured and cost-effective satellite communication services for the EU and National authorities managing security critical missions and infrastructures by the end of 2017¹⁴.
19. SUPPORTS the intention of the Commission to reinforce the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) support framework in order to improve the performance and the geographical coverage of sensors and to consider extending its scope to address other threats and vulnerabilities.

¹⁴ doc. 13668/16 + ADD 1.

Strengthening Europe's role as a global actor

20. UNDERLINES that access to and use of Space is shaped by international rules, standards and a governance framework aimed at guaranteeing the long-term, sustainable use of Space for all nations. RECOGNISES that European support for global governance that promotes clear international space law and rules (peaceful use of Space, space exploration and mining, space debris, etc.) is fundamental to preserve and enhance Europe's role on the global scene.
21. ACKNOWLEDGES that access to international markets and ensuring a global level playing field is vital for European industry and businesses; RECOGNISES that access to international partnerships, within which cutting-edge space technology is increasingly developed, is an important success factor for European researchers and industry. In this context, CALLS on the Commission, in cooperation with the EEAS, and the Member States to pursue international cooperation as a market opener for the promotion of European technology and services to assist European companies on the global markets in the space field.

Ensuring effective delivery

22. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to set up an inclusive process for the concrete implementation of the ambitions and actions of the Strategy.
23. CONSIDERS it essential to clearly identify the competences, roles and responsibility of all relevant actors involved, while developing and enhancing a closer cooperation, in order to maximise the benefits and avoid overlapping and unnecessary duplications; and in this regard, especially ENCOURAGES the Commission to continue as appropriate to rely on ESA's technical excellence, expertise, capacity and know-how.
24. INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with the European Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Agency (GSA), ESA and other relevant actors, including user communities, to develop an extensive awareness raising campaign and capacity building measures targeting non-space users as a priority, by means of training sessions, support to innovative start-ups and scale-ups, regional initiatives, pilot projects and exchange of best practices between advanced and emerging states.

25. SUPPORTS the strengthening of the role of the GSA regarding the exploitation of Galileo and EGNOS, the increase of their market uptake and security-related tasks and INVITES the Commission to consider the evolution of GSA's responsibilities to embrace other EU space activities where appropriate and following assessment.
26. RECOGNISES that adequate resources, both public and private, are essential in order to ensure the sustainability and continuity of EU space programmes, to fully exploit the potential of Space and to maintain and develop the role of the EU as a global player in Space. In this context, INVITES the Commission and the Member States to support private investment and entrepreneurship, promoting public-private partnership schemes such as through a joint technology initiative for space technologies, with a view to sharing risks and rewards, prioritising pre-operational space activities with a potential for industrialisation and commercialisation.
27. CALLS UPON the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of the Strategy and to revise regularly, as appropriate, its priorities, in order to adapt to the fast changing space environment and to attract new investments, both public and private.
