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Subject: A Space Strategy for Europe
- Council coclusions (adopted on 30/05/2017)

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on "A Space Strategy for Europe" as adopted by the Council ("Competitiveness") at its meeting on 30 May 2017.

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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;

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

HAVING REGARD to the Council Conclusions notably on "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens" of 31 May 2011⁷, on "EU Space Industrial Policy - Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector" of 30 May 2013⁸ and on "Underpinning the European space renaissance: orientations and future challenges" of 5 December 2014⁹;

TAKING NOTE of the Council Conclusions on "The Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy" of 17 October 2016¹⁰.

TAKING NOTE of the Communication from the European Commission on a European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) of 30 November 2016¹¹;

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

Introduction

1. WELCOMES the Communication of the European Commission on a Space Strategy for Europe¹², 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.

⁷ doc. 10901/11

⁸ doc. 10295/13

⁹ doc. 16502/14

¹⁰ doc. 13202/16

¹¹ doc. 15160/16

¹² doc. 13758/16

3. RECOGNISES that in addition to the continued evolution and adequate support of space related infrastructures and technologies, the time is ripe to further capitalise on the potential of Space through the development and use of concrete and innovative applications and services based on space data.
4. ACKNOWLEDGES that a reinforced coordination and complementarity with the activities pursued by the EU, ESA and their respective Member States will be essential for the success of the European space sector globally and WELCOMES the Joint statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the future of Europe in Space¹³, signed on 26 October 2016 by the Commission on behalf of the EU and by ESA.
5. STRESSES the need to maximise the integration and assimilation of Space into 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 relevant legislation frameworks 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 measures to consolidate and protect its space related infrastructures, including measures to mitigate the risks and threats posed by space debris and space weather.

¹³ 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, Copernicus¹⁴ and EU GNSS¹⁵ (Galileo and EGNOS¹⁶), which are, or are about to become, fully operational, and STRESSES the need for their reliable continuity and sustainable user-driven evolution in order to build critical mass, create predictability, attract long-term commitments, and allow an independent and secure access for Europe to these services and data.
7. ACKNOWLEDGES the opportunities for science and the great potential benefits that satellite navigation, telecommunications and geo-spatial data, including integrated applications, services and products, coupled with the rapid development of the digital economy, can offer to the private and public sectors, as well as to society at large, and SUPPORTS a stronger uptake of space data, in order to seize these opportunities and benefits, particularly in support of EU and national sectorial policies.
8. SUPPORTS the establishment of European industry-led services platforms, in complementarity with the European Cloud initiative, to aggregate Copernicus data and offer appropriate long-term dissemination and access to data as well as online processing capabilities, notably for European businesses, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), to increase users exploitation of EU sources and to develop a globally competitive space data ecosystem in Europe, while taking into account security issues and requirements related to data and services access policy; INVITES the Commission to explore the possibility of putting together a cost-effective permanent data storage network system, where appropriate, utilising relevant European infrastructures.

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ EU GNSS is the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems

¹⁶ 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).

9. WELCOMES the declaration of Galileo initial services¹⁷ and SUPPORTS the Commission's objective to foster the introduction of Galileo globally, as well as measures to strongly encourage that new chipsets and receivers put on the European and world market are Galileo and EGNOS ready, with the aim of achieving full openness and autonomy on the global GNSS market.
10. ACKNOWLEDGES that all Member States should benefit from Space and therefore SUPPORTS the inclusion of targeted capacity-building measures in the Strategy aiming at particularly assisting the Member States and regions with emerging space capabilities and interests and INVITES the Commission to analyse ways to foster a balanced evolution of the European space economy as appropriate.
11. STRESSES the importance of additional services to be considered to meet emerging and evolving user needs in specific priority areas; NOTES the areas addressed by the Commission in its Communication, including climate change and sustainable development, to monitor CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions, land use and forestry, changes in the Arctic and improving the EU's capacity to respond to evolving security challenges related to border controls and maritime surveillance through use of Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS, and INVITES the Commission to make proposals where appropriate, and in line with the civil status of the EU space flagship programmes, regarding apposite priority areas following a thorough analysis in close consultation with all relevant actors and fora.

¹⁷ Of 15 December 2016

Fostering a globally competitive, innovative European space sector

12. RECOGNISES that the space sector is rapidly evolving and that the European space industry is under pressure from multiple new dynamics in the market; STRESSES that, in order for European space industry to react promptly to evolutions and remain competitive on the global stage, it is crucial that the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States and ESA, develops actions to intensify synergies and interlinkages between space and all other relevant policy areas, to facilitate bringing space solutions to the market , in particular-through R&D activities, in line with the principle of excellence and impact, within the ambit of the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation.
13. CONSIDERS that European space industrial competitiveness should be strengthened on the global market and therefore ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to work with relevant actors to: a) underpin European non-dependence in critical space technologies and systems; b) ensure long-term European public support measures; c) foster a competitive and sustainable supply chain; d) promote access to export markets while ensuring a level playing field for European players; e) increase efforts to remove internal technical and regulatory barriers at EU and national level; f) facilitate access to venture capital and smart financing; g) facilitate innovation and development of space applications, business opportunities, outreach activities as well as industrial capacity, including for "New Space" companies and initiatives, SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups.

Reinforcing Europe's autonomy in accessing and using Space in a secure and safe environment

14. INVITES the Commission as the prime institutional customer of the European launchers' sector to establish a mechanism that would aggregate demand by Union institutional customers for European launch services to ensure a cost-effective and affordable, independent, reliable and autonomous access to Space, through the use of European launchers, predominantly Ariane, Vega and their evolutions and to analyse, together with other relevant actors, whether there are ways to provide appropriate support to European launcher-related infrastructure facilities where this is needed to meet EU policy objectives or needs starting with a detailed impact analysis including funding and governance aspects.

15. RECOGNISES the role of ESA in the development and validation of launchers as well as in the anticipation of future technologies and market developments and opportunities, and ENCOURAGES the Commission, the Member States and ESA to coordinate, as appropriate, by capitalising on what already exists, encouraging the development of commercial markets; UNDERLINES the importance of supporting research and innovation efforts, in particular to ensure Europe's ability to react to and anticipate disruptive changes such as re-usability, low-cost propulsion and small launchers for small satellites.
16. 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 where appropriate, taking into account the space-related initiatives proposed within the European Defence Action Plan, while guaranteeing the continued civil status and control of the programmes.
17. TAKES NOTE of the intention of the Commission, in close cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Defence Agency (EDA) and ESA¹⁸, to prepare by the end of 2017,¹⁹ a Governmental Satellite Communications (GOVSATCOM) initiative to ensure reliable, secure and cost-effective satellite communication services for the EU and National authorities managing security critical missions and infrastructures and STRESSES the need to thoroughly assess all possible aspects before issuing such an initiative, including in the ongoing Impact Assessment.
18. SUPPORTS the intention of the Commission to reinforce the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) support framework in order to further enhance the operational services being delivered, including by improving the performance and the geographical and orbital coverage of sensors as well as to consider extending its scope to address other threats and vulnerabilities, following a thorough assessment and avoiding unnecessary duplications by building appropriate synergies.

¹⁸ As stated in the European Council Conclusions of 23 December 2013 (doc. EUCO 217/13)

¹⁹ doc. 13668/16 + ADD 1.

Strengthening Europe's role as a global actor

19. UNDERLINES that access to and use of Space is guided by national and international space law and 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.
20. 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

21. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to set up an inclusive process involving all relevant actors for the concrete implementation of the ambitions and actions of the Strategy. In this perspective, INVITES the Commission to deliver a detailed implementation roadmap of the Strategy, without prejudice to the upcoming discussions on next Multiannual Financial Framework.
22. CONSIDERS it essential to respect the established competences, roles and responsibility of all relevant actors as well as applicable agreements, 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 and the Member States to continue as appropriate to rely on the technical excellence, expertise, capacity and know-how of ESA as well as of European National Space Agencies and other European national entities in charge of space.

23. INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States and all 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, in order to promote the generation and utilisation of space solutions.
24. ACKNOWLEDGES 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 analyse and assess the potential evolution of the GSA's responsibilities where appropriate.
25. 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, where appropriate, promoting public-private partnership schemes, with a view to sharing risks and rewards, including pre-operational space activities with a potential for industrialisation and successful commercialisation.
26. CALLS UPON the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of the Strategy and to revise its priorities when appropriate, in order to adapt to the fast changing space environment and to attract new investments, both public and private.