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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
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To: Delegations

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Subject: "Space as an enabler"
- Council conclusions (adopted on 28/05/2019)

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on "Space as an enabler", adopted by the Council at its 3694th meeting held on 28 May 2019.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS
ON “SPACE AS AN ENABLER”

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING:

- the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) that establishes an EU competence in Space¹;
- the Convention for the establishment of a European Space Agency of 30 May 1975;
- the Framework Agreement between the European Community and the European Space Agency (hereinafter referred to as the “Framework Agreement”)² entered into force in May 2004 and subsequently renewed, calling for the regular joint and concomitant meetings of the Council of the European Union and the Council of ESA at ministerial level referred to as “Space Council”³;
- the resolutions and orientations adopted by the Space Council, notably on "The European space policy"⁴, "Taking forward the European Space Policy"⁵, "The Contribution of space to innovation and competitiveness in the context of the European Economic Recovery Plan, and further steps"⁶, "Global challenges, taking full benefit of European space systems"⁷, as well as on "Orientations concerning added value and benefits of space for the security of European citizens"⁸;

¹ In particular Articles 4 and 189

² OJ L 261 of 6.8.2004, p. 64.

³ In particular Article 8.

⁴ doc. 10037/07

⁵ doc. 13569/08

⁶ doc. 10500/09

⁷ doc. 16864/10

⁸ doc. 18232/11

- the “Joint Statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the Future of Europe in Space” between the European Union and the European Space Agency, signed on 26 October 2016;
 - the Communication from the Commission on the Space Strategy for Europe of 26 October 2016⁹ and the Council Conclusions on "A Space Strategy for Europe" of 30 May 2017;
 - the outcome of the ESA Ministerial Council, held in Luzern, Switzerland on 1-2 December 2016 and its Resolution on “Towards Space 4.0 for a United Space in Europe” and the outcome of the ESA Intermediate Ministerial Council held in Villanueva de la Canada, Spain on 25 October 2018;
 - the fundamental role played by the European Space Agency for the EU space flagship programmes Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS, by the European GNSS Agency in the frame of Galileo and EGNOS, and by EUMETSAT and the other entrusted entities in the frame of Copernicus;
- (1) STRESSES the role of space as an enabler for social and economic benefits, for expanding the frontiers of knowledge, in particular in science, technology and applications, and for supporting decision and policy makers in developing, implementing and monitoring a number of sectoral policies, inter alia energy, public health, environment, climate change, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets, industry, transport, maritime, agriculture, cultural heritage, rural development, forestry and fishery, digitalisation, security and defence.
- (2) UNDERLINES that space significantly contributes to responding to global and societal challenges and enhancing the global role of Europe. Space plays an essential role for Europe’s autonomy, as well as in global diplomacy, in embracing the European identity, and in inspiring and motivating the next generations.

⁹ doc. 13758/16

- (3) EMPHASISES that a successful space ecosystem is equally vital for meeting the political and economic challenges faced by Europe at large and for the well-being of its citizens and of future generations.
- (4) ACKNOWLEDGES that the global space landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, such as the emergence of "New Space". Whereas space was a domain for only a handful of countries worldwide, driven firmly by public funding and interests, it is maturing and shaped by new actors, such as new space-faring nations and in particular by new private actors.
- (5) UNDERLINES that in this context space offers new opportunities to enhance competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity building in all Member States and at regional level, with particular regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups and their inclusion in the existing value chains, and in this regard UNDERLINES the importance to strengthen cross-border collaboration and international cooperation.
- (6) RECOGNIZES that the penetration of the use of the applications of space systems needs a balanced distribution between geographic areas, EU and ESA Member States, user categories and economic sectors, and EMPHASISES that there are significant opportunities for fostering economic growth and innovation from the more widespread use of space-based applications.
- (7) SUPPORTS the development of innovative and competitive European upstream and downstream sectors and the widest possible uptake and use of space data, information and services;
- (8) ACKNOWLEDGES the emergence of a wide range of innovative space-based applications, thereby contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of European citizens, enabling growth and job creation and stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit beyond public sector investment.

- (9) ENCOURAGES the European GNSS Agency, ESA and Copernicus entrusted entities, such as EUMETSAT and others, to continue to bring innovation into all market segments, including downstream, according to their respective missions, and to accelerate the promotion and marketing of services to strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry.
- (10) RECOGNISES that institutional space activities and space programmes at European level should be under civil or governmental control.
- (11) RECOGNISES that European space infrastructures, including their space, ground and user segments, need to be developed, maintained, enhanced, exploited and protected.
- (12) ACKNOWLEDGES that it is necessary for Europe to maintain a secure, autonomous, reliable, cost-effective and affordable access to space, reiterating the strategic importance of independent access to space, therefore contributing to an innovative and competitive European Space sector, and reinforcing the global role of Europe.
- (13) UNDERLINES the importance of science, technology, applications and research activities across all segments of the space value chain, the exchange of ideas and spinning-in/off of space and non-space technologies.
- (14) ENCOURAGES all actors involved to ensure, through collaboration in space research and innovation, that future research activities better integrate space with other policy areas, contributing to addressing global and societal challenges, for the ultimate benefit of citizens and humankind.
- (15) HIGHLIGHTS that the future position of Europe in space will build a strategic vision defining clear goals, a consistent implementation of different actions, and on allocation of resources accordingly, to maximise socio-economic benefits and avoid unnecessary duplications; CONSIDERS that a coherent, efficient and complementary approach between the EU, ESA and their respective Member States, according to their respective roles and responsibilities, will enable Europe to fully take advantage of the benefits of space, thus enhancing its competitiveness and its position as a space power.

- (16) STRESSES that concerted measures should be taken in full cooperation between the EU, ESA and their respective Member States, to ensure that the European space sector strengthens its competitiveness in the global market, to enable and implement new cooperation methods between existing, new and emerging actors and to push for a commercially competitive European space industry open to other sectors.
- (17) UNDERLINES that the cooperation between the EU and ESA under the “Framework Agreement” is carried out in full respect of their respective institutional settings and operational frameworks.
- (18) RECOGNISES that the aim of the “Framework Agreement” to address the coherent and progressive development of an overall European Space Policy was further confirmed and enhanced in the “Joint Statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the Future of Europe in Space.
- (19) CONSIDERS that a long-term consolidated strategic vision of the EU and ESA, according to their respective roles and responsibilities, is needed in order to build up a stronger space sector and to increase the influence of Europe on the global stage.
- (20) ENCOURAGES the organisation of the Space Council on a regular basis, preferably once per year, in order to discuss the common European strategic vision and goals for space.
- (21) RECOGNISES the importance of focusing the debates of the future Space Councils on main policies and priorities for space in order to ensure the enhanced integration of space into European society and economy and to contribute to a globally competitive European space sector, by making use of excellence in science, technology and space-based applications.