



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 5 March 2013**

**6951/13**

**ESPACE 17  
IND 53  
COMPET 119  
RECH 51  
TELECOM 35  
MI 163  
TRANS 86  
COSDP 197**

**NOTE**

---

From :	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. Cion prop.	6950/13 ESPACE 16 IND 52 COMPET 118 RECH 50 TELECOM 34 MI 162 TRANS 85 COSDP196
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on "EU Space Industrial Policy - Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector "

---

Delegations will find attached a first draft Council Conclusions on "EU Space Industrial Policy - Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector" for discussion during the Space Working Party meeting on 8 March 2013.

**Draft COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS on**  
**"EU Space Industrial Policy -**  
**Releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECOGNIZING that the entry into force on 1 December 2009 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)<sup>1</sup> establishes an EU competence in space, which strengthens the political dimension of space in Europe;

RECALLING the Council Conclusions on Innovation Union for Europe<sup>2</sup> of 26 November 2010, which recognised the contribution of key technologies, including space technology, to the overall competitiveness and innovation potential of the European economy, as well as the importance of sustainable and operational space and other infrastructures serving as platforms for the development of innovative applications and services for the benefit of European citizens;

HAVING REGARD to the Commission's proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)<sup>3</sup>;

HAVING REGARD to the Council resolutions and orientations adopted and those of the "Space Councils" and in particular the Council Conclusions on "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens" of 31 May 2011<sup>4</sup> which supported the need for a space industrial policy to be drawn up, in close cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Member States, to promote a competitive space industry in Europe;

---

<sup>1</sup> In particular Articles 4 and 189.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 17165/10

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 17933/11

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 10901/11

RECALLING the Communication from the Commission on Industrial Policy - A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery<sup>5</sup>, which, *inter alia*, outlined the Commission's intention to bring forward additional initiatives to foster internal market integration in the fields of security and space;

TAKING NOTE of the Council Conclusions adopted on 18 February 2013 on “Establishing appropriate relations between the EU and the European Space Agency”<sup>6</sup>;

1. RECOGNISES the pivotal and growing role of space in modern society, the importance of the space industry and its contribution to economic growth and job creation and emphasises that space contributes directly to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy<sup>7</sup>. STRESSES the need for a coherent EU space industrial policy that recognises the specificities of the space sector and will ensure the competitiveness of the European space industry at a global level for the benefit of European citizens. CONSIDERS that efficient cooperation between the three actors – the EU, ESA and their respective Member States – is essential for an effective EU space industrial policy.
2. WELCOMES as a useful basis for discussion the Communication from the Commission entitled “EU Space Industrial Policy: releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector<sup>8</sup>” and SUPPORTS the five objectives set out therein. CONSIDERS that it is of fundamental importance that the EU maintains and strengthens its autonomy in strategic areas of the space sector in order to achieve these objectives.

---

<sup>5</sup> 15168/12

<sup>6</sup> Doc. 16374/12

<sup>7</sup> Doc. 7110/10

<sup>8</sup> Doc. 6950/13

3. WELCOMES the success of the European space industry in the global commercial market, particularly in the manufacturing and launcher sectors, in the face of increasing competition from other space-faring nations. ACKNOWLEDGES nevertheless that the European space industry faces challenges due in part to a relatively high reliance on commercial sales, a fragmented institutional market in Europe, lower public funding relative to its competitors, and under-developed synergies between the civil, commercial and defence sectors. Also RECOGNISES the existence of sector-specific challenges such as barriers to the development of innovative applications and therefore market development for the Earth observation and SatNav applications sector, which is at an early stage of development, the scarcity of radio spectrum for the SatCom sector, and the cyclical nature of the commercial space market.
4. RECOGNISES the need to examine the appropriateness of existing legal frameworks with a view to ensuring the security, safety, sustainability and economic development of space activities, SUPPORTS the Commission's intention to develop a space legislative framework to strengthen the European space market including, but not limited to, a legislative instrument on production and dissemination of private satellite data and ENCOURAGES the Commission to assess the extent to which the existing legal framework could hinder the proper functioning of the internal market.
5. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to monitor and improve the dual-use export control and intra-EU transfer frameworks and assess their impact on the space sector. SUPPORTS Commission and Member State actions to ensure the availability of radio spectrum as an essential element in maintaining the competitiveness of the SatCom sector. ENCOURAGES the Commission to finalise its assessment of the market potential of suborbital spaceflights to determine whether the development of a European regulatory approach is warranted. RECOGNISES the important role standardisation plays in boosting the competitive position of the European space industry and in helping SMEs enter relevant segments of the space market and SUPPORTS the work that is being undertaken in this area.

6. UNDERLINES the need for the EU to maintain, develop and attract an appropriately skilled workforce to enhance the capacity of the European space industry. RECOGNISES that challenges exist in this area, including shortages of high-skilled space engineers and technicians, the demand for new skills in emerging sectors, and the need for increased cooperation between industry and third-level institutions. INVITES the Commission and the Member States to pursue appropriate dedicated actions to address the challenges in this area.
7. EMPHASISES the importance for the European space industry of maintaining and strengthening its position with regard to access to international markets. STRESSES the need to ensure that the specificities of the space sector are given particular consideration in any measures to support access of European industry to international markets, including through trade negotiations, relevant commercial agreements and export facilitation mechanisms.
8. RECOGNISES the importance of investment in research and technology development in fostering a competitive and innovative space industry. WELCOMES the measures outlined in the Communication to support advances in space technologies, particularly in relation to breakthrough and alternative technologies and cross-fertilisation of technologies. EMPHASISES the importance of ensuring non-dependence in critical technologies, ACKNOWLEDGES the efforts of the Commission, ESA and the European Defence Agency in this regard and URGES continued actions in pursuit of this objective. WELCOMES that the new Horizon 2020 programme will support space research and innovation and CALLS ON the Commission to ensure that concrete and strategic measures are developed under this programme to foster a globally competitive, innovative and non-dependent European space sector.

9. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to assess whether incentives to boost the use of satellite-enabled products and services can be provided to European industry.  
ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to promote the use of space-based applications in EU policies and to support measures to stimulate the development and deployment of space-based applications across public and private users, in particular in local authorities and the SME sector, together with associated innovation support measures.  
SUPPORTS in this context the implementation of the Commission GNSS Action Plan to foster the development and adoption of satellite navigation applications.
10. CONSIDERS that, in the interests of a balanced industrial base, the participation of SMEs in the supply chain is an essential component of the competitiveness of the European space industry. STRESSES the need to exploit and expand existing financial instruments appropriate to the space sector in the context of facilitating access to finance, especially by SMEs, and INVITES the Commission to further assess the need for new innovative financial instruments.
11. RECOGNISES the importance of public funding for the space sector and CONSIDERS that there is merit in determining whether the space procurement approach can be improved, taking into account the specificities of the sector and the structure of public funding.  
INVITES the Commission to analyse the impact of the implementation of the EU Directives on public procurement and defence procurement on the national and European space markets.
12. RECOGNISES and SUPPORTS the objective of independent access to space and UNDERLINES the importance of a reliable, secure and cost-effective launcher system for the development of a world-class European space industry. CALLS ON the Commission, in coordination with the other institutional actors, to examine further the issues relating to the development of a European launcher policy, including funding and a governance framework.

13. REAFFIRMS the commitment to ensuring an effective Space Situational Awareness (SSA) capability at European level, SUPPORTS the setting up and operation of a European Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) system and WELCOMES the adoption by the Commission of a proposal for a Decision establishing an SST support programme.<sup>9</sup>
  
14. RECOMMENDS, in the context of ensuring greater levels of independence, expertise and competitiveness within the space sector, that the EU, together with the other institutional actors, should develop and provide to industry a long-term plan of the institutional market.

---

---

<sup>9</sup> Doc. 6952/13 + ADD1 + ADD 2