



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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TRANS 109
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from : General Secretariat

to : Permanent Representatives Committee

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final

Subject : Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council, Establishing
a Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Programme
- Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and
the Committee of Regions¹

1. On 1 March 2013, the Commission submitted to the Council Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council, Establishing a Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Programme².

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

² Doc. 6952/13 + COR1

2. The proposal for a Decision concerns the establishment of a European service which will seek to prevent collisions between spacecraft or between spacecraft and debris and monitor uncontrolled re-entry of complete spacecraft or parts thereof. In technical terms this service is referred to as a European SST service.

Following the approach envisaged in the Commission Communication "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens" of 2011³, this Decision allows for the definition of a partnership, whereby Member States will contribute with their existing and future assets to the SST capability at European level and the Union will provide a legal framework and a financial contribution to the implementation of the actions defined. The legal framework defines the governance scheme and the data policy in accordance with the relevant Council conclusions.

Moreover, the proposed European SST services would accommodate an essential objective of the space industrial policy of the EU (identified in the Commission's Communication on EU Space Industrial Policy. Releasing the Potential for Economic Growth in the Space Sector transmitted also on 1 March 2013⁴), namely to achieve European technological non-dependence in critical domains, and to maintain independent access to space.

³ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: "Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens", COM(2011) 152 final of 4.4.2011.

⁴ Doc. 6950/13

3. The present proposal, which is based on Article 189(2) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee nor that of the Committee of Regions. However, given the scope of the proposed Decision, the Commission's proposal to consult the two Committees is considered appropriate.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of regions on the above proposal and to request them to give is opinion as soon as possible.
