



**Brussels, 11 October 2016
(OR. en)**

**12808/1/16
REV 1**

**ESPACE 46
RECH 283
COMPET 515
TRANS 368
TELECOM 184**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Authorization to the Commission to sign the "Joint Statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the Future of Europe in Space by the European Union and the European Space Agency"

1. The Commission has adopted a decision on a Joint Statement on Shared Vision and Goals for the Future of Europe in Space by the European Union and the European Space Agency, which it intends to sign on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the release of the forthcoming Commission Communication on "A Space Strategy for Europe".
2. Purpose of this joint statement is to emphasise the intention of the EU and ESA to reinforce their cooperation in the future and further develop it, in order to achieve their common ambition and goals for Europe to remain a world-class actor in space and a partner of choice on the international scene.

3. Following information from the Commission, the Space Working Party, at its meeting on 23 September 2016, examined the Joint Statement, expressed support to the authorization to the Commission to sign the Joint Statement as reflected in the Annex of this document.
 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited:
 - to confirm the agreement in principle reached at Working Party level, and
 - to suggest the Council to confirm, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, that it authorizes the Commission to sign, on behalf of the EU, the Joint Statement, as set out in the Annex of this document.
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Joint statement on shared vision and goals for the future of Europe in space

by the European Union and the European Space Agency

1. Space is an important and strategic sector, contributing to various sectorial policies (e.g. energy, transport, digital agenda, including telecommunications, environment, climate change, agriculture, migration, security and defence, etc.).

Space is also an enabler for responding to societal challenges and it effectively contributes to smart growth, the competitiveness of the European economy, and produces highly qualified jobs.

The standing of Europe as a global player is reinforced by its important position in all segments of the space economy.

Space is expanding the frontiers of knowledge, is inspiring and motivating the next generations.

2. Europe has had many successes from breakthrough science and exploration missions across the Solar system, its contributions to the International Space Station, the development of unique Earth's monitoring systems with the Copernicus and meteorology programmes, a cutting-edge global navigation infrastructure with Galileo and EGNOS, world leading commercial telecommunications constellations and launch systems, and a solid industrial base, just to name a few.

Thanks to the efforts of the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Union (EU) and their respective Member States, and the resulting excellence, inventiveness and innovativeness of its space sector, Europe has achieved autonomy in access to space, its use, and application of space technologies.

3. Today's challenges for the space sector are characterized by changing paradigms and new user needs, an increasing number of space faring countries and new private actors, as well as increasing reliance on space. The space sector is becoming more diverse and complex. As both competition and cooperation are intensifying, Europe needs to shape its future standing in the sector.
4. The EU and ESA share a common vision and goals for the European space sector to respond to these new challenges and turn them into opportunities. Our common European ambition is that Europe remains a world-class actor in space and a partner of choice on the international scene. By 2030, Europe should be able to fully benefit from its space solutions to implement its policies, to strengthen European values and security, improve knowledge and foster prosperity. Every single European citizen should benefit from Europe's space capacities and capabilities. We thus envisage to:
 - maximize the integration of space into European society and economy, by increasing the use of space technologies and applications to support public policies, providing effective solutions to the big societal challenges faced by Europe and the world, strengthening synergies between civilian and security activities in the fields of navigation, communication and observation, including through monitoring borders, land and maritime security conditions;
 - foster 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;
 - ensure European autonomy in accessing and using space in a safe and secure environment, and in particular consolidate and protect its infrastructures, including against cyber threats.

These goals should rest on the solid foundation of excellence in science, technology and applications, expressed through an environment of outstanding education and skills and a thorough knowledge base.

5. To achieve these goals, the EU and ESA emphasize their intention to reinforce their cooperation in the future, as foreseen in the EU-ESA Framework Agreement of 2004, and further develop it, taking into account the TFEU, in particular Article 189, and the ESA Convention, in particular Articles 2 and 5.
