



Brussels, 2 May 2024
(OR. en)

9344/24

ESPACE 43

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	<i>Preparation of the Council (Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) on 23-24 May 2024</i> - European Space Policy - Preparation of the Space Council

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 23 May 2024, the eleventh Space Council meeting will be held during the morning, after and in the margins of the Competitiveness Council. This joint and concomitant meeting of the Council of the European Union and of the European Space Agency (ESA) Council at Ministerial level is based on Article 8 of the Framework Agreement between the European Community (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA). This agreement offers a common basis for the coherent and progressive development of an overall European Space Policy.
2. The draft agenda of the Space Council is set out in Annex.

II. BACKGROUND

3. An *ad hoc* procedure was followed, based on the Framework Agreement, that is ‘without prejudice to the Parties’ internal decision-making procedures’¹, so that the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the German Presidency of the ESA Council at Ministerial level, the ESA Executive and the Commission would hold informal quadrilateral meetings to prepare a text on “Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space” to be adopted by each organisation according to its own procedure. For the Council of the European Union, the text to be adopted is Council conclusions, whereas for ESA it is an ESA Resolution. The body of the text is identical, but the preambles differ slightly to take into account the practices and rules of both organisations.
4. The draft Council conclusions on ‘Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space’ (9318/24) were prepared by the Space Working Party. The draft Council conclusions will be submitted to the Competitiveness Council on 23 May 2024 for approval before the Space Council.
5. ESA will adopt its Resolution at Ministerial level in its Council that will take place in the margins of the Competitiveness Council, immediately after the Competitiveness Council, and before the Space Council.

III. STRUCTURE OF THE ‘SPACE COUNCIL’

6. After the adoption of the agenda, the ‘Space Council’ will focus on a policy debate on ‘Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space’.
7. The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the German Presidency of the ESA Council at Ministerial level propose questions to structure the debate as set out in ADD 1 to this Note. Ministers will be invited to limit their intervention to no more than 3 minutes.

¹ Article 8, paragraph 4.

IV. CONCLUSION

8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the preparation of the Space Council, to be held in the margins of the Competitiveness Council in the morning of 23 May 2024, as set out in this Note, and to submit the draft agenda for the Space Council as set out in Annex to this Note for approval by the Council (Competitiveness) at its session on 23 May 2024.
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ELEVENTH SPACE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE MEETING AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

23 May 2024 (11:15) ^{2 3}

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Policy debate on ‘Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space’

Reference Document 9344/24 ADD1

- Orientation of the debate and questions for the EU-ESA Space Council
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² In the margins of the Competitiveness Council.

³ The discussions will be held in public.