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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council of 29 May 2026:
Briefing on the International Space Summit organised in Paris on 9-10
September 2026
- Information from France

Briefing on the International Space Summit organised in Paris on 9-10 September 2026

and Concept paper

CONSEIL COMPETITIVITE (ESPACE)

DU 29 MAI 2026

Demande de point divers de la France

Point d'information sur le Sommet spatial international organisé à Paris les 9-10 Septembre 2026

La France organise les 9 et 10 septembre 2026 un Sommet spatial international qui réunira chefs d'État, acteurs publics et privés, société civile et scientifiques. Ce rendez-vous vise à répondre aux enjeux globaux du secteur spatial, marqué par des ruptures technologiques, économiques et stratégiques.

Articulé autour de quatre piliers — sciences et exploration, régulation, compétitivité européenne, sécurité et défense — le sommet ambitionne de renforcer la coopération internationale pour un espace innovant, sûr, durable et accessible.

La France souhaite développer auprès du Conseil la dimension européenne de l'évènement qui doit être au cœur du Sommet, afin de soutenir l'ambition d'une vision européenne commune et de garantir le statut de puissance spatiale de l'Europe.

COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (SPACE)

MAY 29 2026

AOB request from the French delegation:

Briefing on the International Space Summit organized in Paris on 9-10 September 2026

France is organizing an International Space Summit in Paris on the 9th and 10th of September, that will bring together heads of state, public and private actors, civil society and scientists.

This meeting aims to meet the global challenges of the space sector, marked by technological, economic and strategic breakthroughs. With four pillars – science and exploration, regulation, European competitiveness, security and defence – the summit aims to strengthen international cooperation for an innovative, safe, sustainable and accessible space.

the European dimension must be at the heart of the Summit. As such, France wishes to promote the event and develop it within the Council in order to support the ambition of a common European vision and to guarantee Europe's status as a space power.

International Space Summit

Concept paper

In 2026, France will host an international space summit in Paris, bringing together the global space community: heads of state and government, public and private stakeholders, civil society, and members of the scientific community. The space sector, on a global scale, is experiencing a period of deep strategic transformation, technological breakthroughs, and economic upheaval. It is both a driver of competitiveness and a strategic tool, supporting public policies and every scientific and economic activities. It inherently represents a world challenge that transcends sectoral dynamics to facilitate, in unprecedented ways and on a large scale, all aspects of human activities. The space sector merges science and planet conservation, technological achievements and human endeavor.

This international event will be hosted by the President of the French Republic. It aims to develop a collective response to fundamental challenges facing our societies and the future generations. Its ambition is to foster stronger cooperation between partners with a common vision of an innovative, technological, safe, sustainable, and accessible space sector, and to contribute to the emergence of agreed principles. It will bring together major international players in the space sector to ensure a broad and representative picture of the space reality of today.

The Summit's content will be organized around four themes:

1. Science and exploration;
2. Regulation of space activities;
3. Sectoral competitiveness, particularly at the European level;
4. Security and defense.

1/ The summit intends to bring together the international community on today's global challenges, in order to collectively design appropriate solutions. This includes the science and research enabled by space activities, starting with Earth and climate sciences. Space data should now be treated as a shared resource to serve mankind. The Summit will also highlight how inspirational space can be through space exploration, which has historically been a theatre for unprecedented international cooperation between governments, between agencies, and between research centers and/or private actors.

2/ The sustainability of space activities will also be a key topic for the Summit, as activities in orbit grow exponentially. Space is a World Commons that must be preserved for the good and benefit of all. Strengthening the existing international framework is necessary to ensure its stability and security, which will likely introduce rules for traffic and operations that allow safe access to and proper management of outer space. This issue will be central to the work of the United Nations and to an upcoming international conference on space (UNISPACE), to which the Summit will contribute

3/ The Summit should consolidate a shared vision of competitiveness in the space sector. At the European level in particular, through its expertise and global collaborations, Europe will assert its position as a space power in industrial, scientific, technical, and economic terms, as an effect of the dynamics driven by the European Commission. The Summit will clarify this ambition, consisting of technological progress, knowledge sharing, and extended cooperation for the benefit of all mankind.

4/ Finally, as space becomes a strategic domain, and has already been declared an operational domain for military purposes, the approach to space activities from the resilience and security perspectives will also be discussed.

The Summit will encourage a strong participation from companies and from the scientific community. This commitment will underscore the importance of the space sector for innovation and research, as well as for the demonstrated capacity of space technologies to pave the way for broader and sustainable progress in human activities.

French astronaut Thomas Pesquet and H el ene Huby, head of the Franco-German group The Exploration Company, have been appointed Special Envoys to the Summit to represent the multifaceted nature of the sector, from science to competitiveness. Former French space commander, General Philippe Adam, will bring his experience to bear as Secretary General for the Summit.

France is expecting active participation of nations and international stakeholders to produce tangible results and concrete partnerships, shaping a framework for future international activities in a domain essential to the transformation of our societies and to the well-being of our peoples. In this respect, the path leading to the International Space Summit is as important as the event itself. While France is hosting this summit, it intends to co-construct the agenda and work with all those who share the will of strengthening cooperation and convergence around global space challenges. France would be honored to benefit from your contribution to the discussions, exchanges, and concrete deliverables that will give life to this summit.
