



Brussels, 8 September 2026

CM 4039/26

**ESPACE
PROCED**

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject: **END OF THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE** on the Commission's intention to enter into a Declaration on behalf of the European Union on a Long-Term Vision for European Space Transportation with EU Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA) and ESA Member States
– Authorisation to endorse a non-binding instrument

Delegations are informed that the written procedure opened by CM 3929/26 of 4 September 2026 was successfully completed on 8 September 2026.

All delegations voted in favour of authorising the Commission to endorse, on behalf of the European Union, the Declaration on a Long-Term Vision for European Space Transportation with EU Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA) and ESA Member States, and as set out in document 12591/26, with the following statements from Sweden and Greece.

The Council Secretariat takes the opportunity to thank delegations for their kind cooperation.

SWEDEN

Sweden underlines that it is within the competence of the EU and its Member States, in accordance with the EU Treaties, to interpret and apply the notion of a European preference for European launch services.

GREECE

1. Greece supports the Long-Term Vision for European Space Transportation and its objective of guaranteeing autonomous, reliable and cost-effective access to space for the needs of European public institutions. Greece attaches the highest importance to autonomous European access to space and to the development of a competitive and resilient European launch service ecosystem, to which it contributes as a Member State of both the European Union and the European Space Agency.
2. Greece understands the political priority of “European preference for European launch services” as a preference to be applied where European launch services are available and suitable for the mission concerned, having regard to the launch window, the target orbit, the payload class, the availability of rideshare opportunities and the applicable launch cadence, and where such services are cost-effective, as expressly provided for in the Vision.
3. Accordingly, Greece understands that, where no European launch service can meet the requirements of a given mission within the necessary timeframe and on cost-effective terms, Member States remain free, in accordance with their respective competences and legal frameworks, to procure launch services from non-European providers for their national missions and programmes, without prejudice to the objectives of the Vision and to the continued development of European capabilities.

4. Greece recalls that the Vision is a non-binding instrument, that it applies without prejudice to the competences defined in the EU Treaties and in international and intergovernmental agreements, that European public players remain sovereign in their respective roles and actions, and that programmes, instruments and resources are coordinated and mobilised on a voluntary basis in line with the respective legal frameworks of the participants. The Vision therefore creates no obligation for Member States, does not prejudge the eligibility rules of any Union or national funding instrument, and does not affect the application of Union public procurement law or of the provisions of the Treaties relating to essential interests of national security.
 5. Greece considers that the effective implementation of a European preference requires European launch services to be genuinely accessible to all Member States on transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable terms, including as regards launch cadence and pricing, with particular regard to Member States with smaller but developing space ecosystems which rely on rideshare opportunities for the deployment of small satellite constellations and which do not host national launch service providers.
 6. Greece finally underlines the importance of ground infrastructure located across the European territory, as defined in the Vision, including spaceports, optical ground stations and space surveillance and tracking assets, as an integral component of the resilience of European space transportation, and stands ready to contribute national infrastructure to that end.
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