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LIMITE

ESPACE 84
RECH 397
COMPET 628
MI 667
IND 240
ENV 621
EU-GNSS 37
TRANS 542
TELECOM 336
ENER 371
EMPL 366
CSDP/PSDC 430
CFSP/PESC 813

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on Space for everyone

Delegations will find attached a Presidency draft on 'Space for everyone' with a view to the Space Working Party meeting of 21 September 2021.

Changes compared to doc. 11462/21 are marked in **bold underline** and ~~strikethrough~~.

Draft Council conclusions on Space for everyone

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING

- A. the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union that establishes an EU competence in Space¹;
- B. the Council conclusions on ‘A Space Strategy for Europe’ of 30 May 2017², encouraging the Commission and Member States to work with relevant actors to facilitate innovation and development of space applications, business opportunities, outreach activities as well as industrial capacity, including for ‘New Space’ companies and initiatives, SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups;
- C. the Council conclusions on ‘Space as an enabler’ of 28 May 2019³, confirmed at the ninth Space Council, acknowledging the profound transformation that the space landscape is undergoing, maturing and shaped by new actors, such as new space-faring nations and in particular by new private actors;

**Ca. the Council conclusions on ‘Space for a sustainable Europe’ of 4 June 2020⁴,
acknowledging the key role of space for long-term sustainable growth, digital transition
and green transition;**

¹ In particular Articles 4(3) and 189.

² 9817/17.

³ 9713/19.

⁴ **8512/20**

Cb. the Council conclusions on ‘Orientations on the European contribution in establishing key principles for the global space economy’ of 20 November 2020⁵, confirmed at the tenth Space Council, highlighting that the European space sector enables Europe to participate in and contribute to the global growth of the space economy;

- D. the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions ‘Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries’ of 22 February 2021 stressing the need for enhancing complementarity between relevant Union programmes and instruments to increase efficiency of investments and effectiveness of results;
- E. the Council conclusions on ‘New Space for People’ of 28 May 2021⁶, stressing the importance of New Space for an innovative, resilient and competitive Union space sector, its impact in the European economy and its potential to answer to the needs of European citizens, **therefore setting the basis for a European New Space approach**, and calling to the Commission and the **EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)** to foster, through an action plan, the uptake of space services;

I. Introduction

1. RECOGNISES the **socio-economic** benefits of the Union’s Space programme ~~on different levels, from supporting its economic and societal development, for instance with two billion users of~~ **through the range of applications of** Galileo services worldwide, ~~to enabling environmental observations on a global scale with~~ **and** Copernicus **services**; NOTES however that the European space sector’s **industrial capacities are** ~~is very~~ unevenly distributed, ~~with only a few countries providing most of the industrial capacities;~~ and RECOGNISES that the number of SMEs **grows faster** in the countries with a large established space industrial base ~~grows faster~~ than in countries with a limited or no space industrial base;

⁵ **12851/20**

⁶ 9163/21.

2. ACKNOWLEDGES that New Space is **changing** shaping the industrial business models in the space ecosystem **with effects on** and consequently ~~changing~~ the competitiveness of European industry and businesses; **RECOGNISES that New Space contributes to the development of new innovative technologies and benefits various sectors; and NOTES that the development of downstream activities brings new business opportunities in all Member States;**
3. **NOTES that the world is facing many global challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, security issues, the Covid-19 pandemic; and HIGHLIGHTS that space contributes to their monitoring and mitigation measures increasing society's resilience and capacity to recover from crises;** UNDERLINES the high innovative capacity of the Union's **start-ups, SMEs and start-ups and mid-caps;** and STRESSES the need to better include them in the European space ecosystem both on the upstream and downstream segments, **including through cross-border cooperation,** to respond to the global challenges of the space **sector** ecosystem;
4. ~~NOTES that the world is undergoing many global challenges, like climate change, biodiversity loss, security, the Covid-19 pandemic; and HIGHLIGHTS that space can contribute to awareness and mitigation activities;~~
5. RECOGNISES that space, through its data, services and applications in many different **sectors** areas such as, **mobility** transport, connectivity, agriculture, **energy, finance** banking system, location-based services, or health, facilitates life in the 21st century; and UNDERLINES that the space sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in the Union; **but NOTES that** although the distribution of its **use and** benefits could be improved, ~~thus a comprehensive approach is needed that can~~ **to** reach and benefit all Union's citizens, **institutions** and companies **as appropriate;**
6. RECOGNISES that space technological developments and the innovative use of space data, services and applications benefit also the security and defence area and contribute to the strategic autonomy of the Union;

II. The European New Space approach with a focus on a diversified European space ecosystem

7. ACKNOWLEDGES that the European space ecosystem is highly diversified with **varying space capacities in different Member States** ~~large space faring nations, small space faring nations and non space faring nations~~; RECOGNISES that due to the changes in the space sector brought about by New Space, also ~~new and small nations~~ **Member States with emerging space capabilities** can have the capacity-ies to contribute to the development of ~~Union~~ space technologies and applications; ~~and~~ STRESSES that, in order to maximize the **benefits** ~~investment~~ of the Union **investments** in the space sector, all ~~nations~~ **stakeholders** should **be able to** benefit from available opportunities, ~~and~~ participate in the development of the space sector, ~~including a broader range of SMEs benefiting from the Union space programme in~~ **and of** cross-sectoral markets, ~~stimulating cross-border SMEs participation for capacity building, in particular in non (yet) space faring and small space faring nations as a key for building a broad Union space ecosystem;~~
8. HIGHLIGHTS the attractiveness of the space sector for different stakeholders, from large system integrators, **start-ups, mid-caps, SMEs, start-ups, and mid-caps,** to academia and research institutions, as space technologies serve as a generator of development **and innovation**; NOTES that the historical development of the space sector, which led to Europe's leadership position in space, ~~arises from the determination of some European states to ensure an autonomous access to space and~~ resulted in the concentration of activities in **specific areas of the Union** ~~their ecosystem~~; RECOGNISES that it is in the interest of the Union to ~~develop~~ **foster** a more equitable **participation in** ~~distribution of space projects~~ **by different stakeholders in** ~~between~~ all Member States, **based on their expertise,** that will provide for a balanced growth **and ensure the competitiveness** of the space ecosystem; **and ACKNOWLEDGES the efforts undertaken by Member States and the European Space Agency (ESA) in this regard;**

9. UNDERLINES the importance of space for the Union's strategic autonomy while preserving an open economy; and CONSIDERS that the Union should continue to foster its autonomous access to space **in close coordination and cooperation with its Member States and with ESA** and ensure that the ~~whole~~ value chain ~~for the Union access to space~~ remains primarily in the Union, whereas the competitiveness of the Union industry in space should not be jeopardised;
10. STRESSES the importance of encouraging the participation of the Union's **start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps** ~~and start-ups~~ **as well as research organisations** in the development of ~~any~~ new ~~space~~ **activities**, such as secure connectivity;
11. WELCOMES the CASSINI initiative, with the CASSINI Seed and Growth Funding Facility under InvestEU, that should facilitate the access to venture capital, support business development and accelerate company growth; STRESSES the importance of the efforts of the Commission and EUSPA, through CASSINI, to increase the number of successful start-ups and scale-ups in the space sector **in all Member States**, which commercialise ~~Union~~ space technologies **and services** and thus contribute to the emergence of a European New Space ecosystem to foster entrepreneurship; and HIGHLIGHTS the need for a coordinated approach with ongoing activities of the **ESA** ~~European Space Agency~~ pursuing the same objective;
- 11a.** HIGHLIGHTS the importance of developing good industrial ecosystems and fostering skills in Member States in collaboration with excellent research, by maximising the use of different Union development funding such as the European Social Fund, NextGenEU, Recovery and Resilience Facility. [*moved from point 22*]

III. Towards a green and sustainable Union and the digital transition, also encompassing cybersecurity

12. ACKNOWLEDGES the important role that space is playing in demonstrating the scale of climate change and the urgency of action to mitigate its negative impacts; and EMPHASISES the continuous need to closely monitor the state of the climate **and of biodiversity** and use all the existing space technologies and downstream services to enable the green transition of the Union economy; **and STRESSES the need to develop and use space applications, services and data in close cooperation with end-users, stakeholders and the space industry in all Member States;**
13. HIGHLIGHTS that the Recovery and Resilience Facility along with Cohesion and Regional Development Funds and Social Fund can be used to support space **sector** development in Member States as space **infrastructures**, data, services and applications contribute to the achievement of all three major eligibility criteria: climate action, low carbon economy and smart mobility;
14. EMPHASISES the need for integration of existing and new expertise in different areas of **emerging** disruptive technology such as AI, quantum technologies, **robotics** and block chain, throughout the space value chain, in order to maximize the value gain **for society and businesses;**
15. STRESSES the importance of developing the Union's secure **connectivity** ~~communications networks based on existing building blocks~~ **capacities** ~~already~~ developed within the GOVSATCOM component, without prejudice to the budget and the implementation of the Union space programme; ~~STRESSES in particular the importance of achieving the completion of the Galileo constellation; and ACKNOWLEDGES the efforts to develop a EuroQCI, a quantum technology powered network to secure critical infrastructure across Europe;~~

16. NOTES that developments in the space sector, including New Space, can contribute greatly to the development of state of the art technology necessary for cybersecurity in the Union and that a synergetic use of the Union space programme components and other ~~developments~~ **initiatives** such as EuroQCI ~~will~~ **may** be beneficial for the Members States' critical infrastructure; and HIGHLIGHTS that the **security of** existing space infrastructure is **of highest priority** ~~to be treated as a critical infrastructure itself~~; **NOTES the importance of the Space Situational Awareness component, including Space Surveillance and Tracking, in protecting the space infrastructure;**

IV. Priority actions

17. INVITES the Commission, EUSPA and Member States to work on strengthening the links between the space and non-space sectors, in order to emphasise the role of space technologies, services and data in responding to different policy needs and **provide the opportunities for** jointly developing **ing** space ecosystems in all Member States that are interested in such a development;
18. REITERATES the need to support New Space and its role in the Union space ecosystem, pursuing a New Space approach as set out in the Council Conclusions on 'New Space for People', **and the priority actions set therein;**
19. INVITES the Commission **and EUSPA** to **further** develop pragmatic solutions to foster the development of space ecosystems in Member States through utilization of existing policies and programmes in the field of space, such as CASSINI or Horizon Europe ~~and beyond~~, and to enhance synergies for instance with the European Defence Fund **and** ~~of~~ European Innovation Council;

20. INVITES **the Commission and** EUSPA to intensify cooperation with Member States through different activities and promotion **of the Union space programme**; NOTES that ~~assistance is needed through~~ raising awareness **is needed** in Member States on all existing Union funding tools that are available for financing space-based ~~innovation~~ projects, e.g. **Horizon Europe**, Regional Development and Cohesion funds, InvestEU, Recovery and Resilience Facility, access to risk finance, innovation partnerships through European Investment Bank funding; and NOTES that **support** ~~assistance~~ to Member States is also **helpful** ~~needed~~ for embedding ~~Union~~ space technologies, data and services into national industrial policies, National Operational Programmes and National Recovery and Resilience Plans;
21. INVITES the Commission and EUSPA to **carry out** ~~address the need for~~ regulatory and standardisation activities ~~required~~ **in order** to ensure the uptake of Union space services ~~in~~ sectorial domains that are critical for the autonomy of the Union and take all necessary **appropriate** actions to remove ~~existing~~ **relevant** legal obstacles for the uptake of European space data and services;
- ~~22. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of developing good industrial ecosystems and fostering skills in Member States in collaboration with excellent research, by maximising the use of different Union development funding such as the European Social Fund, NextGenEU, Recovery and Resilience Facility. [moved to point 11a]~~