



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 November 2021
(OR. en)

14307/21

ESPACE 116
MARE 32
RECH 537
COMPET 864
MI 888
IND 366
ENV 929
EU-GNSS 48
TRANS 703
TELECOM 432
ENER 529
EMPL 516
CSDP/PSDC 607
CFSP/PESC 1141

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 26 November 2021
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 13843/21

Subject: Space for everyone
- Council conclusions (adopted on 26/11/2021)

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on Space for everyone, adopted by the Council at its 3830th meeting held on 26 November 2021.

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;
- D. 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

- E. 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;
- F. 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;
- G. 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 on 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 through the range of applications of Galileo and Copernicus services; NOTES however that the European space sector’s industrial capacities are unevenly distributed; and RECOGNISES that the number of SMEs grows faster in the countries with a large established space industrial base than in countries with a limited or no space industrial base;

⁵ 12851/20.

⁶ 9163/21.

2. ACKNOWLEDGES that New Space is changing the industrial business models in the space ecosystem with effects on the competitiveness of European industry; 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 start-ups, SMEs 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;
4. RECOGNISES that space, through its data, services and applications in many different sectors such as mobility, connectivity, agriculture, energy, finance, 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 the distribution of its use and benefits could be improved to reach all Union's citizens, institutions and companies as appropriate;
5. RECOGNISES that space technological developments and the innovative use of space data, services and applications benefit also security and defence and contribute to the Union's strategic autonomy while preserving an open economy;

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

6. ACKNOWLEDGES that the European space ecosystem is highly diversified with varying space capacities in different Member States; RECOGNISES that due to the changes in the space sector brought about by New Space, also Member States with emerging space capabilities can have the capacity to contribute to the development of space technologies and applications; STRESSES that, in order to maximize the benefits of the Union investments in the space sector, all stakeholders should be able to benefit from available opportunities, participate in the development of the space sector and of cross-sectoral markets;
7. HIGHLIGHTS the attractiveness of the space sector for different stakeholders, from large system integrators, start-ups, SMEs 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, resulted in the concentration of activities in specific areas of the Union; RECOGNISES that it is in the interest of the Union to foster a more equitable participation in space projects by different stakeholders in 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;
8. UNDERLINES the importance of space for the Union's strategic autonomy while preserving an open economy; and CONSIDERS that the Union should continue to support an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space in close cooperation with its Member States and with ESA in particular through the use of European launch services for the Union space programme and thus contributing to the value chain remaining primarily in the Union;

9. STRESSES the importance of encouraging the participation of the Union's start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps as well as research organisations in the development of new activities;
10. 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 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 pursuing the same objective;
11. 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 schemes such as the European Social Fund, NextGenEU, Recovery and Resilience Facility.

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. INVITES the Commission to explore the options for developing the Union's space-based global secure communications system based on existing and future capacities within the GOVSATCOM component, in full respect of the Union space programme's budget and the implementation of the existing components of the Union space programme;
16. STRESSES the importance of a successful Copernicus implementation and of achieving the completion in due time of the Galileo full operational capability;
17. 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 initiatives such as EuroQCI may be beneficial for the Members States' critical infrastructure; and NOTES the importance of the Space Situational Awareness component, including Space Surveillance and Tracking, in protecting the existing space infrastructure;

18. HIGHLIGHTS the need to ensure the sustainable use of outer space, taking into consideration the increasing number of space-faring nations and new actors of the space sector and the implementation of the UNCOPUOS guidelines for Long-Term Sustainable Use of Outer Space; STRESSES the need to continue the discussion on and take actions for the development of Space Traffic Management (STM) at political, legal and technical levels; and NOTES the role of Horizon Europe targeted research and innovation calls on STM and the potential for new market for innovations to ensure the sustainable use of outer space;

IV. Priority actions

19. 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 space ecosystems in all Member States that are interested in such a development;
20. 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;
21. INVITES the Commission and EUSPA to support 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 to enhance synergies for instance with the European Defence Fund, the Digital Europe Programme and European Innovation Council;

22. INVITES the Commission and EUSPA to intensify cooperation with Member States through different activities and promotion of the Union space programme; NOTES that raising awareness is needed in Member States on all existing Union funding tools that are available for financing space-based 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 to Member States is also helpful for embedding space technologies, data and services into national industrial policies, National Operational Programmes and National Recovery and Resilience Plans;
23. INVITES the Commission to address relevant regulatory and standardisation issues in order to ensure the uptake of Union space services, to take appropriate actions and, where possible, support Member States in their effort to create a favourable legal framework for the uptake of European space data and services; and INVITES EUSPA, within its remit, to support the Commission in standardisation and certification activities.