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#### NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	6830/24
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on "Strengthening Europe's competitiveness through space"

Delegations will find attached a revised Presidency draft of Council conclusions on 'Strengthening Europe's competitiveness through space' with a view to the Space Working Party meeting on 20 March 2024.

Changes compared to doc. 6830/24 are marked **bold underline** and ~~strikethrough~~.

## Draft Council conclusions on ‘Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space’

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING

- A. the Convention for the establishment of a European Space Agency of 1975;
- B. the Framework Agreement between the European Community – which has been succeeded by the European Union – and the European Space Agency, which entered into force in 2004 and is celebrating its twentieth 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary **this year**;
- C. the Agreement between the European Space Agency and the European Union on the security and exchange of classified information, which entered into force in 2008;
- D. the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which entered into force in 2009;

### I. Space contribution to European competitiveness and societal challenges

1. HIGHLIGHTS the transformation of the space sector globally as well as the unprecedented role of space ~~for~~ in determining Europe’s prosperity, competitiveness, safety, security, and autonomous decision-making; NOTES the strength of the European space sector and its excellence in space technology, science, research, skills and education, services and applications, as well as its strong and diversified space industry; EMPHASISES that ~~EU and ESA~~ European space programmes are important ~~ever more indispensable for defining and executing~~ for policies and strategic action and for making Europe and its space industry more resilient and competitive; RECALLS that these programmes should continue to benefit all the Member States of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the EU and that both organisations should provide inclusive access to the different phases of their respective programmes;

2. EMPHASISES that space capabilities ~~are ever more indispensable for~~ **at EU, ESA and Member State level play a key role in defining, implementing and monitoring** the ~~definition and implementation of policies and strategic action;~~ **for the purposes of international cooperation,** for societal **socio-economic** benefits and ~~for~~ a more competitive **and resilient** Europe, including through:
- a. space-based services that enable ~~all areas of~~ **industry to be at the forefront of technological development, thereby enhancing** Europe's competitiveness across sectors; ~~including with regard to navigation and transportation systems, logistics, and mobility;~~
  - b. the indispensable use of space in support of climate action, environmental protection and the green transition, including **through Copernicus services and applications and** ~~through the Space4GreenFuture~~ **Space for a Green Future** accelerator, ~~and acting~~ **which acts** as an enabler for the European Green Deal;
  - ba. **supporting Europe's influence and leadership in international environmental and climate-related negotiations;**
  - e. ~~a deeper integration between green and digital transitions to leverage the latest technologies to facilitate the understanding of present and future climate impacts;~~
  - d. the contribution of space-based data and services to helping **industry** reduce its environmental footprint through emissions monitoring and natural resource management; ~~and the role of space-based digital solutions to allow companies to cut costs, reduce red tape, and improve efficiency of processes;~~
  - e. the role space serves as an enabler for harvesting the full potential of the digital transition, for increasing connectivity and for closing the digital divide, **allowing companies to cut costs and enhance efficiencies through space-based digital solutions;**

**ea. a deeper integration between the green and digital transitions in order to benefit from the latest technologies to understand present and future climate impacts, including by providing transparency in cases of crises and disasters, as well as providing new solutions to these challenges;**

f. the transformative power of scientific discovery, to which space contributes, as well as the importance of science and technology **in** contributing to a knowledge-based society;

3. ~~ENCOURAGES collectively strengthening and further developing these capabilities, and increasing their impact and benefits, through cooperation and forward-looking action;~~  
HIGHLIGHTS that space contributes to overall European security, **economic** growth and prosperity and that the European space sector has a large innovative and commercial potential, with an increasing but still limited level of private engagement; therefore, WELCOMES the potential for **further** growth **and diversification** of the European **New Space as well as the traditional** space sector, with space systems, applications, services and data increasingly serving as an essential building block in a multi-sectoral market; and EMPHASISES the benefit of Europe ~~becoming~~ **being** a destination **for competitive and sustainable** ~~of choice for space business development;~~ **also UNDERLINES the role of ESA, the Commission and the European Union Space Programme Agency in fostering the development of a strong European space ecosystem;**

4. UNDERLINES **that** the untapped potential of the space sector to boost Europe's **economy** **and** competitiveness **should be exploited** against the backdrop of rapid global commercialisation and increasing global competition in the space sector; and EMPHASISES that ~~cross-sector fertilisation can enable space to become a driving force across European industrial ecosystems by integrating~~ space-based solutions **must therefore be even more strongly integrated** into non-space sectors, and vice-versa; ~~NOTES the importance to reinforce developments within the space sector that lead to the creation of growing public and private demand for commercial applications and services that secure Europe's global competitiveness;~~

## II. Boosting the competitiveness of the European space sector

5. UNDERLINES that a key driver for the European space sector is a stronger orientation towards the evolving user needs of non-space sectors and commercial markets; STRESSES the importance of need to increase user uptake of space-based data and services by continuing to raise awareness and ~~encourage adoption~~ to foster dialogue amongst potential users in various sectors about of the benefits that actionable and user-driven space-based data and services can offer for advancing European competitiveness across industries, and to encourage their adoption;
6. EMPHASISES that a competitive European space sector Europe is based on the ability needs to secure public and private space investments and capabilities, as well as the readiness, including technical and financial capability, of the private sector to take risks; WELCOMES that increased service procurement promotes the transfer of responsibility and authority for mission design and implementation to private enterprises, ~~wherever~~ where appropriate; ~~further~~
- 6a. HIGHLIGHTS the potential benefits for operators ~~of~~ and service ~~of~~ and applications providers ~~from an aggregated demand and of~~ anchor customer procurement schemes and aggregated demand, thus facilitating commercialisation and enhancing efficiency; and UNDERLINES the importance of open and transparent public procurement processes which support the development of a diversified and innovative European space industry;
7. ~~AGREES, for this purpose,~~ RECOGNISES that risk-taking and risk-sharing are crucial for a more competitive European space sector and that, therefore, there is a need to identify a tailored approach towards risks and requirements, conducive to efficiency gains and profitability in that sector ~~terms of costs and timeliness of space activities, missions and programme implementation~~;

8. UNDERLINES innovative schemes at national and European level, such as CASSINI and ESA's Investor Network, to support co-funding models coupled with combined efforts to increase access to finance for all actors, especially start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises, and including through fostering asset-based financing; ENCOURAGES and CALLS ON the private sector to leverage investments in the European space sector industry and to support disruptive innovation as well as and advance advancing technological readiness; STRESSES the role of small and medium sized enterprises in space and their contribution to the innovation and competitiveness of the European space sector; WELCOMES innovative schemes at European level to support co-funding models and access to finance for all actors; STRESSES that further efforts are required to increase this access, especially for start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises, including through innovative instruments fostering asset-based financing;
9. RECOGNISES the driving force of business environments conducive to that stability and predictability for in the space business environment will encourage more private investment; NOTES that public authorities can support the development of new business models opportunities in space and for allowing the expansion of market opportunities for European companies worldwide;
10. HIGHLIGHTS the importance and multiplying multiplier effect of space expenditure in R&D on space research and development and the positive spill-over effects of space technologies on the wider European economy; NOTES the need to raise the attractiveness of the space sector in order to attract and retain talent and a skilled workforce, building on the excellence of skills and talents in Europe; STRESSES the need to increase upskilling and reskilling efforts with a view to raise awareness on the benefits and uses of space data, services and applications for other sectors;

11. RECOGNISES the ~~role of innovative technologies in the space sector~~ **need** to help decision-makers and companies to process space data more rapidly and accurately, turning space information into actionable insights; and STRESSES the importance ~~for~~ **of** public authorities ~~to have~~ **having** adequate access to the necessary data and capabilities to implement policies and enable the **space-related** services with the required level of independence, reliability and cost-efficiency; **further NOTES the need for effective management and protection of space data, underpinned by a commitment to data security;**

### III. Space as a backbone for European global action

12. IS CONVINCED that ~~Europe~~ **ESA, the EU and their respective Member States** should strive for ~~a substantive European contribution to~~ **progressive** global rules and best practices in space, to allow for a European impact **and a strong position** on global space governance matters, ~~with a view to asserting a strong global position of Europe~~ **by supporting a sustainable space environment;** RECOGNISES ~~the central role of standards for the delivery of regulation~~ **in supporting** policy **goals with regards to** ~~vis-à-vis the objectives of sustaining trade, innovation and economic growth;~~
13. HIGHLIGHTS that the space sector, **benefitting from the close collaboration between ESA, the EU and their respective Member States,** enhances the position of the European economy on the global stage and is a backbone of European strategic autonomy **in an open economy;** **LOOKS FORWARD TO increased expansion of the space sector towards markets opportunities worldwide, including through greater global collaboration;**
14. ~~UNDERLINES~~ **STRESSES** the importance of **operational** space **systems** ~~activities and data~~ for the protection and secure operation of critical European **and national** infrastructures, such as energy systems and electricity grids, including the monitoring of space weather and the coordination of preventive measures; RECOGNISES the urgency ~~for Europe to invest in the enhancement of~~ **enhancing** European autonomy **as regards;** security, **safety** and resilience in and through space; and **UNDERLINES the importance of continuing to work together in order** to secure critical technologies, capabilities and supply chains in a targeted and balanced approach, as well as defining clear priorities, thereby reinforcing Europe's competitiveness;

15. ~~INVITES the reinforcement of a dialogue~~ **HIGHLIGHTS**, on the basis of the EU-ESA Framework Agreement **and in close consultation with all Member States, the importance to reinforce a dialogue** in view of industrial measures and actions necessary to ensure synergies with the ambition to build a globally competitive European space economy in a highly challenging international market; and ~~HIGHLIGHTS~~ **UNDERLINES** that in order to ~~achieve these objectives and~~ reinforce coordination for the development of the overall European Space Policy, **including the EU-ESA partnership**, the Space Council needs to be strengthened ~~through further regular meetings prepared in accordance with~~ **on the basis of** the 2004 EU-ESA Framework Agreement.
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