PRESS RELEASE

President Costa's budget proposal cuts Europe's space and defence line by 30%: ASD-Eurospace warns Europeans will be less safe

Sovereignty and security in space have a price. Europe must decide whether it is willing to pay it.

Brussels, 25 November 2026. On Saturday 21 November, European Council President António Costa presented his revised proposal for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ahead of this week's special European Council. The overall budget is cut by around 10% compared with the Commission's proposal. The "Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space" line loses 30%, almost €39 billion. That is the deepest cut of any line in the European Competitiveness Fund.

The proposal does not say how this cut would be split between defence and space. Unless leaders state otherwise, Europe's space programmes must assume they will lose almost a third of their funding.

The contradiction is striking. The same draft conclusions state that Galileo, Copernicus, IRIS², GOVSATCOM and the Earth Observation Governmental Service deserve "particular attention" in the current geopolitical context. Listing them as priorities while cutting the money that funds them is not a strategy.

On our eastern border, Russia's war against Ukraine is a threat to Europe's security. At home, heatwaves, wildfires and floods are a threat to the lives and livelihoods of Europeans. In both cases, space is what allows Europe to anticipate and respond. In this context, ASD-Eurospace warns that the proposal would make it impossible to deliver the EU's space ambitions and would undermine the efforts already under way to strengthen Europe's autonomy. In practice, the EU would have to postpone, or even abandon, essential capabilities:

- **Security:** an Earth Observation Governmental Service for space-based intelligence and crisis response; a resilient Low Earth Orbit navigation layer that complements Galileo against growing jamming and spoofing threats; and an upgraded EU Space Surveillance and Tracking system to protect assets in orbit.
- **Environment and crisis management:** the expansion of Copernicus, which is essential to anticipate floods, wildfires, droughts and the effects of climate change on European citizens.
- **Sovereignty and autonomy:** guaranteed European access to space, in-orbit servicing, investment in critical technologies…

"As an industry, we could talk about contracts and market share. But that is not the competition that matters most. What is really at stake is Europe's sovereignty", said Olivier Lemaitre, Secretary General of ASD-Eurospace. *"Space now underpins defence, secure communications, intelligence, navigation and the digital economy. If Europe falls behind, it becomes dependent on others for the capabilities that decide its security and its ability to make its own decisions. In a crisis, a satellite that arrives too late is a satellite you don't have."*

Europe has shown that it can build world-class systems, from the precision of Galileo to Copernicus, the world's leading Earth observation programme. But the competition is fierce: the United States invests at least seven times more in space every year than all European actors combined.

Industry estimates are clear: €60 billion for space is the price of a Europe that can see, navigate and communicate on its own terms, sustain its flagship programmes and keep contributing to climate research without having to rely on others in space.

As Heads of State or Government meet on Thursday, ASD-Eurospace is sounding the alarm. If they accept this cut, Europeans will be less safe: less protected against those who threaten our security, and less prepared for the floods, fires and droughts already hitting our regions.

Contact: Ilona ZABRYTSKA, EU Policy Manager, +33 (0)6 71 52 12 81, ilona.zabrytska@eurospace.org

About ASD-Eurospace: Eurospace is the trade association of the European space manufacturing industry, representing 102 companies in 20 countries which together account for 80% of European space industry final sales – www.eurospace.org