

Brussels, 23 May 2024

Dear,

Today in Brussels, the Council of the EU (in its “Competitiveness” configuration) met with the Council of ESA at ministerial level, in the frame of the “Space Council”. Such joint and concomitant meetings are based on the 2004 Framework Agreement between the EU and ESA and aim, among other, at providing high-level orientations for an “*efficient and mutually beneficial cooperation*” with regard to space activities. At the occasion of this meeting, the Councils of both institutions have endorsed a joint document calling for “Strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through space”.

The European space industry, represented by Eurospace, welcomes the fact that European ministers recognise the role of space to support Europe competitiveness and acknowledge that space capabilities play a key role in defining, implementing and monitoring policies and strategic action.

If the key benefits of space have long been recognised at the highest political levels in Europe at regular times, the European space industry calls now our European policy-makers to also acknowledge that:

- On the one hand, the entities which, ultimately, deliver the necessary infrastructures to provide data and services to public (civil and military) users are private industrial companies and,
- On the other hand, the challenging economic situation of the space sector in Europe, the very low level of internal demand for space and major disruptions happening for instance in the USA or China, are threatening the sustainability of the supply chains, the retainment of expertise and, ultimately, Europe sovereignty.

For 20 years now, the Councils of the EU and of ESA are annually calling for an ESA-EU partnership to be ever more “reinforced”. The European space industry considers it is now vital that such a reinforcement must take place with one urgent objective: to devise and implement a coherent **Industrial Strategy for Space at European level**.

In this context, I am happy to share with you the attached European space industry declaration and remain, with the secretariat of Eurospace, at your disposal for any further information.

Best regards,



Jean-Marc NASR, President of Eurospace