

**SPACE, THE FOUNDATION FOR EUROPE TO UNDERSTAND AND ACT IN THE WORLD:
HOW THE NEXT MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN**

As EU decision-makers begin shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034, The European space industry is sending an urgent message: a ring-fenced and predictable EU budget for space is critical to safeguard the continuity of Europe’s flagship space programmes and ensure the continent’s strategic autonomy.

In a new position paper (attached, and also available [here](#)), the European space industry* warns that without guaranteed long-term funding, cornerstone programmes like Galileo, Copernicus, IRIS², and Space Surveillance & Tracking face serious risks of future disruption. These systems are essential to European navigation, climate monitoring, secure communications, and space safety.

The industry’s demand is simple: secure the future of European space with a protected, long-term budget line – one that shields operations, upgrades, and services from volatility and fragmentation.

“You can’t operate 24/7 global infrastructure with year-to-year uncertainty,” said Marco Fuchs, President of Eurospace (and CEO of OHB), *“you need sustained investment – just like for roads, power grids, or defence capabilities. The EU’s role in space is very unusual, it is not about supporting Member States, industry or research, it is about acquiring, owning and operating vital infrastructures that provides public services to each and every citizen, public decision-maker and business in the EU”.*

Strategic Infrastructure at Risk

Space at EU level is not about exploration and astronauts; it is the infrastructure backbone of the modern EU. Galileo provides precise navigation for everything from emergency services to autonomous vehicles. Copernicus is at the heart of Europe’s climate strategy and an indispensable tool in anticipating and reacting to crisis and natural catastrophes. IRIS² is set to deliver sovereign, secure communications for both public and defence use. SST is will contribute to keep Europe’s orbit clear of collisions in increasingly crowded orbits.

These systems support everything from the Green Deal and digital transformation to European defence and international cooperation. But they depend on continued public investment – in satellites, ground infrastructure, maintenance, and user services.

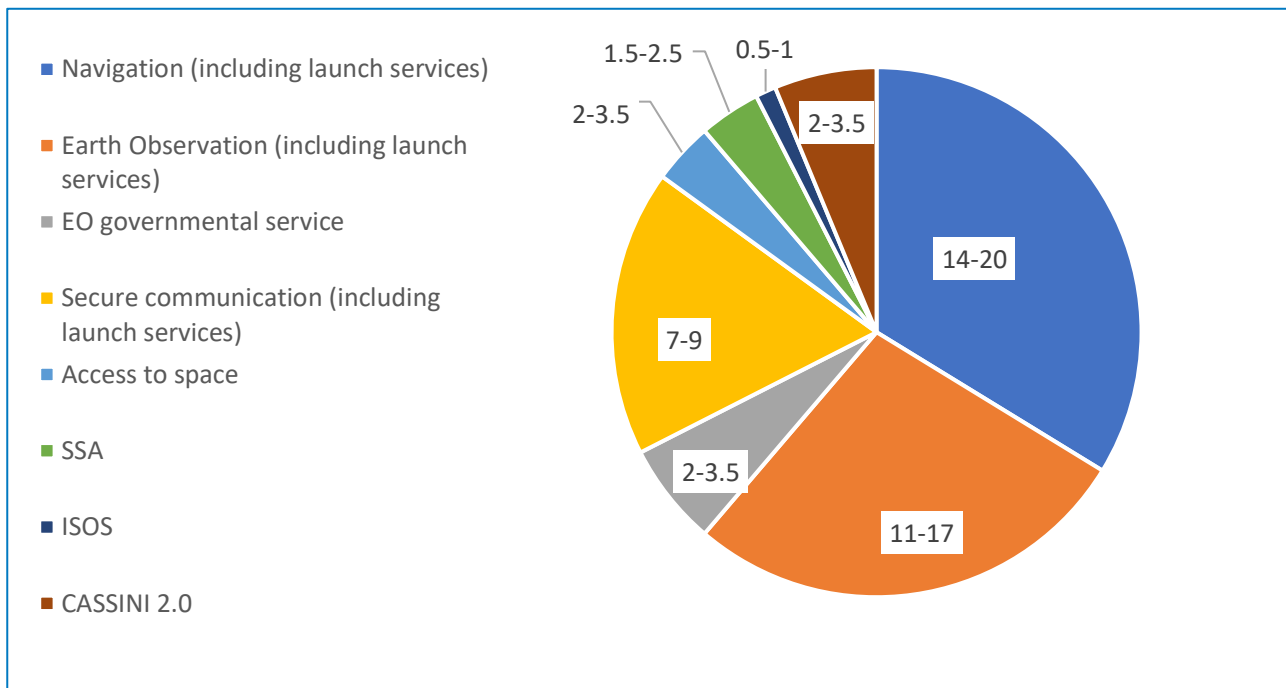
Industry insiders warn that budget shortfalls in the current MFF (2021–2027) already forced compromises in operations and upgrades. With inflation, rising demand, and new threats such as cyberattacks and jamming, the next MFF must do more than keep the lights on – it must future-proof Europe’s space capabilities.

40–60 Billion Euros Needed to Match Europe’s Ambition

The European space industry is backing a proposed envelope of 40 to 60B€ for the EU Space Programme under the 2028–2034 MFF – a substantial increase from the current ≈19B€, but still well below spending levels of other

space powers, and justified by the increased ambitions of the Commission itself, and the need to accommodate quickly strong security requirements.

EU Space Programme 2028-2034 & EU Space Research Budget (Civil & Defence) estimated by Industry to achieve the ambitions of the EU [40 up to 60B€]:



By comparison:

- NASA's 2024 budget is 25B\$, the US Space Force managed a budget of 26B\$, while the NRO could spend as much as 13-15B\$ on space systems (this budget provides the US space industry a guaranteed captive demand that is 6 times higher than the European equivalent)
- The Chinese space programme has grown by a factor 3 in just a decade, seeing China deploying even more satellites than the US government in the past 3 years.
- Both China and the USA are accelerating their military space programmes.

The proposed EU budget would ensure:

- Continuity of Galileo, Copernicus, IRIS² and SSA and their evolution in a security and defence framework;
- Modernisation of ground infrastructure and satellite constellations;
- New capabilities, such as Space Traffic Management, In-Orbit Operations, and LEO-based navigation;
- Concrete support to improve the market conditions for launch services
- Innovation pilots to test new technologies and services that could lead to next-generation missions.
- A competitive European commercial space sector through an updated Partnership between the actors of the supply chain, research organisations and the European Commission

Europe Can't Afford Gaps in Services

Industry leaders point to recent crises – the loss of Soyuz access after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, delays to Galileo satellite launches, and hyperinflation affecting operating budgets – as warnings. Any interruption in service would damage user trust, reduce competitiveness, and jeopardise the EU's leadership in climate, in transport, and in security policies.

The current programmes are fully-fledged public services – used by governments, emergency responders, businesses and citizens alike. Just as roads and global connectivity require sustained investment, so do space systems.

Predictability Unlocks Private Investment

A guaranteed long-term budget does more than protect public infrastructure. It also gives certainty to private investors, who are willing to fund innovative services and applications – but only if they trust the institutional market won't collapse in the next budget cycle.

The paper also emphasises that stable funding supports the 65,000+ high-skilled jobs in the European space manufacturing sector.

Not Business-as-Usual, but a Strategic Shift

The call for a ring-fenced space budget is part of a broader appeal to realign EU priorities around sovereignty, resilience and innovation. As the Mario Draghi report on competitiveness concluded, chronic underinvestment in strategic sectors like space has weakened the EU's ability to compete globally.

This is not about tweaking numbers; it's about ensuring Europe doesn't fall behind in a domain that increasingly defines economic, security and geopolitical power.

Contacts:

- Olivier LEMAITRE, Secretary General, olivier.lemaitre@eurospace.org, +33 (0)6 30 13 63 07
- Charles GALLAND, Policy Officer, charles.galland@eurospace.org, +33 (0)6 40 06 05 31
- Pierre LIONNET, Director of Research, pierre.lionnet@eurospace.org, +33 (0)6 61 35 84 88