

Jean-Loic Galle
President of Eurospace

Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

Gunther Oettinger
Budget Commissioner

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Dear Mr President, dear Mr Commissioner,

On behalf of Eurospace, the trade association of the European space manufacturing industry, I would like to share with you some considerations about the way the European space sector can support European institutions in addressing societal challenges while generating growth, competitiveness and benefits to citizens.

Modern societies rely more and more on connectivity as a major enabler of innovation and digital transformation of the economy, pervading our lifestyle, from access to knowledge up to fruition of applications, for institutions as well as individuals. And satellites are *in fine* means – most of the time unique and essential – to collect and to distribute data all over the world. The efforts of the European Union to accelerate the transition towards a data-driven economy can only be conceived if Europe has a sufficient control on its capacity to access and disseminate information. Space is not only part of the digital agenda, it is a critical infrastructure that is strategic to exist in a digitalised and globalised world.

Furthermore, Security is a primary need for individuals as well as economic and institutional players. As such, it is demanding tools and services allowing monitoring of any region or environment, transfer and processing of images and other information for applications such as: secured communication, border control, maritime surveillance, crisis prevention and management, while protecting population, ensuring resilience of critical infrastructure, and securing continuous availability of services.

In this respect, space systems and related European access to space represent crucial elements for the independence and sovereignty of our continent. Such dimension has never been questioned in space powers as the USA, Russia or China, and this has guaranteed to the competitors of the European space industry a high and continuous level of public investment and a secured domestic market essential for their competitiveness.

Finally, optimal utilization of natural resources and protection of environment are today global challenges and in order to implement policies and develop business in a globalized world, we need a global view for which satellites represent an indispensable asset. Data from satellites contribute to improve agriculture and water management practices, monitor disasters and relief operations, town and country planning, predict the weather, and many more. Space systems help us understanding the fragility of our planet and monitor climate change and related threats, such as greenhouse gas emissions.

These three trends represent an unprecedented challenge and an opportunity also for the space sector, bringing on the one hand novelty and innovation in design, production and business models, on the other hand enhancing the importance of technological non-

dependence, performance resilience and industrial competitiveness. Space technology has proven on numerous occasions its added-value by leveraging the long-term investment made in EU space successful flagship programmes (EGNOS, Galileo, Copernicus) and space research in an EU set-up.

Abovementioned EU space programmes are already operational tools : seven Copernicus satellites are now in operation and deliver a huge amount of data recognized worldwide for their unmatched quality. Similarly, since December 2016, the satellites of the Galileo constellation are providing users with global positioning, navigation and timing information, via a live, operational service.

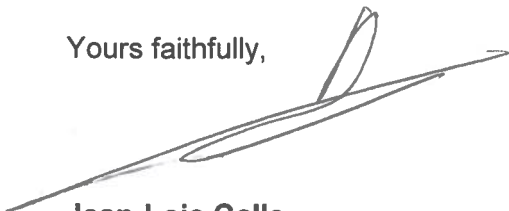
Despite a challenging and fast changing international context, the European industry does perform well : about 50% of the open commercial markets captured worldwide, almost 20% of the global launched mass put in orbit, and this with just 4% of the worldwide space workforce. Europe is amongst the top world leaders in space with the USA and China . And this success is the result of the past and present joint efforts of Member States that built this capacity through the European Space Agency and their national agencies and, now, of the very effective action of the EU to deploy operational systems at the benefit of European society and economy.

In a more uncertain geopolitical environment, investing in space must remain an institutional priority to preserve Europe's leadership, competitiveness, sustainability and autonomy in this strategic domain, as laid out in the Space Strategy for Europe published by the Commission in October 2016, which was fully endorsed by the Member States and the European Parliament, and fully supported by the European space industry.

This is of major importance in a context where traditional space powers are very active, new space powers are emerging, and disruptive industrial organizations and business models are massively supported by national institutional entities with growing budgets. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation for the opportunities we had, as space industry association, in multiple occasions, to express our vision and related priorities to Vice-President Sefcovic and Commissioner Bienkowska and to the services of the Commission and to get their deep listening.

In the context of the finalisation of the European Commission proposal for the next MFF, we are therefore confident that the strategic specificities of our sector as well as its transversal potential to answer societal challenges and to improve the efficiency of public policies will be reflected by ambitious space programmes and budgets commensurate with such ambitions, allowing to continue reaping the benefits of Europe's efforts at the service of European society, economy and citizens.

Yours faithfully,



Jean-Loic Galle

Paris, April 11th 2018

cc: Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission
Elżbieta Bienkowska, European Commissioner for Single Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs