103711/EU XXVIII. GP
Eingelangt am 16/11/26

Council of the European Union

Brussels, 16 November 2026
(OR. en)

15854/26

ESPACE 188

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 4 December 2026 2nd Implementation Dialogue on Space – 30 November 2026 - Information from the Commission

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

2nd Implementation Dialogue on Space – 30 November 2026

Information from the Commission

This note provides Ministers with a debrief of the 2nd Implementation Dialogue on Space chaired by **Commissioner Andrius Kubilius** on **30 November 2026, in Brussels,** with the participation of more than **30 stakeholders** from the EU space sector, including companies, associations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), academia and agencies (i.e. Frontex, EUSPA, European Defence Agency and European Space Agency). This second dialogue focused on how the **EU space sector can best serve security and defence**.

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The dialogue took place in the context of the "**Simpler and Faster Europe Communication**"[1], which aims to collect valuable insights to help identify possible implementation and simplification aspects related to the EU Space Programme. The "**2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement**" of Commissioner Kubilius (covering the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026) was shared with the Council's Space Working Party on 24 September 2026.

Main objectives

The functioning of economies, citizens and public policies increasingly relies on space-born and space-related services and data, including those in the field of security and defence. Yet space is an increasingly contested area. In this context, the synergies between space and defence are becoming ever more important. The **Joint Communication** on a **European Space Strategy for Security and Defence (EUSSD)**, published on 10 March 2023, identifies **space** as **critical for the strategic autonomy of the EU and its Member States**. The Communication aims to ensure that the Union's space systems are better equipped to respond to today's fast-evolving security and defence needs. It builds on the growing interdependence between space, security and defence, recognising that services such as **Earth observation, positioning, navigation and timing, secure satellite communications, and space surveillance and tracking** are now essential for operational readiness, resilience and strategic decision-making.

Against this background, the Implementation Dialogue on Space examined both the **already deployed** and the **future EU space systems, reflecting how those space systems could address existing, evolving or new user needs for security and defence, with a particular focus on IRIS²**.

Space companies seeking to serve security and defence needs face a particularly demanding operating environment. In addition to the high costs, long development cycles and investment risks inherent to the space sector, they must comply with stringent requirements linked to the provision of Union governmental space services, including security accreditation, resilience, assured availability, protection of sensitive information, supply-chain security and strict performance and reliability standards.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0047

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The **challenges** faced by space companies interested to serve security and defence needs, whilst complying with strict requirements associated with supplying Union governmental space services, were also discussed, as well as the **interoperability** among EU, national and non-EU systems.

The **outcome** of this discussion will help to refine priorities for implementing the Union's governmental space services, ensuring they better respond to evolving security and defence needs and feed into the Commission's work on strengthening the resilience, autonomy and operational relevance of EU space services in a more challenging geopolitical environment. It may allow the Commission to translate strategic objectives into practical implementation steps and to deepen cooperation with European industry and institutional stakeholders.

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