



Paris, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## **POLITICAL OPINION**

### **on European Union Space Policy**

Having regard to article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Space Strategy for Europe," COM(2016) 705 final,

Having regard to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) no. 912/2010, (EU) no. 1285/2013, (EU) no. 377/2014 and Decision 541/2014/EU, COM(2018) 447 final,

Having regard to the agreement reached at the trilogue of 26 February 2019,

The European affairs committee of the French Senate,

Recalls the importance for Europe of having a space policy allowing it to ensure its strategic autonomy, its security and sustainable economic growth;

Emphasises the interest for the European Union to remain a leading player in the space sector in the coming years;

Calls upon European Heads of State and Government to consider the issue of space policy and determine guidelines for the same within the European Council;

Calls, furthermore, for additional efforts to be made to encourage public opinion to share Europe's space ambitions;

Considers it indispensable for the European Union to continue to have sovereign access to space, and emphasises that the Guiana Space Centre is an asset to be strengthened;

Calls on the Union to be proactive in providing support for European-built space launchers by establishing a European preference in favour of European companies operating in this sector;

### **On the Regulation for the European Space Programme 2021-2027**

Highlights the excellence and success of the Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus programmes and their central role in European space policy;

Calls therefore for their development, continuity of service and robust security to be ensured as a matter of priority;

Supports the European Union's determination to develop effective space surveillance and orbit tracking capabilities, and calls for the consolidation of the dedicated European programme;

Approves the adoption of a European Union space programme and the creation of a European Union Agency for the Space Programme;

Stresses, nevertheless, that this new agency must complement existing actors and the European Space Agency in particular, in order to present genuine added value and help develop the downstream operations of the European Space Programme to favour economic growth in Europe;

**On the financial support provided for European space policy**

Urges the European Union to allocate a budget for the space policy that is consistent with the importance of the issue in terms of sovereignty;

Supports, to that end, the proposal of the European Commission to allocate €16 billion to the European Space Programme in the next multiannual financial framework;

Calls for further research and innovation in the space sector, and requests, therefore, that €4 billion be earmarked for such purposes in the upcoming Horizon Europe framework programme.