



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND BRIEF¹
Brussels, 16 November 2020

VIDEOCONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SPACE 20 November 2020

Ministers in charge of space policy will discuss how to enhance the competitiveness of the EU space industry within the global space economy and the EU's role in shaping international regulatory regimes. The video conference, which will be chaired by Mr Peter Altmaier, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, will start at 09.00 and is expected to be concluded at +/-10.45. Ministers will subsequently participate in a video conference of the European Space Agency (ESA) Council at ministerial level, followed by a video conference of the tenth Space Council, bringing together the EU Council and the ESA Council, expected to be concluded at +/-14.00.

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Press briefing: Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 09.00

Press conference:

Friday 20 November at +/- 14.30

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[Video conference of ministers of space page](#)

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Europe's role in the global space economy

Ministers will have an informal policy debate on Europe's role in the global space economy. More specifically, they will exchange views on how the EU can enhance the competitiveness of its space industry and play a bigger role in shaping international regulatory regimes.

Ministers will be invited to structure their interventions around the following three questions :

- (1) What are your expectations towards the European space industry in terms of its role in international markets?
- (2) What specific measures should be taken, notably with regard to fair conditions for the global market, space traffic management, space financing and protection of intellectual property rights and cyber security?
- (3) What role should Europe assume in multilateral negotiation processes relevant to the space sector?

[EU space policy \(background information\)](#)

European space policy - Preparation for the Space Council

Ministers will prepare the meeting of the tenth Space Council², to be held on the same day. As part of this preparation, the Council recently adopted a set of conclusions (see link below).

The Space Council will hold a policy debate on the European contribution to establishing key principles for the global space economy. In this context, ministers will be invited to exchange views on the following question:

What actions, including programmatic, political and regulatory, of the EU, ESA and their respective Member States are needed for:

- a) building a globally competitive and robust European Space economy and support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis,
- b) fostering European space autonomy, security and resilience, and
- c) enhancing European space cooperation, including green and digital transition sustainability?

At the end of the Space Council, the German presidency of the EU Council and the French and Portuguese presidencies of the ESA Council will publish a joint summary of the discussions at the Space Council.

[Key principles for the global space economy: EU Council adopts conclusions \(press release\)](#)

Any other business

Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Portuguese delegation will shortly present the priorities of its upcoming presidency in the field of space.

² The Space Council is a joint and concomitant meeting of the EU Council (Competitiveness - Space configuration) and of the ESA Council at Ministerial level. It is a forum enabling the EU and the European Space Agency (ESA) to coordinate cooperative activities on European space policy. ESA is composed of 22 member states: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden (which are also EU Member States) + United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland. Canada also sits in the Council and takes part in some projects under a Cooperation Agreement. Slovenia is an Associate Member. Seven other EU member states have Cooperation Agreements with ESA: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia. Read more about ESA at www.esa.int.