

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Space Security Challenges: Security Policy and Conflict Prevention.

Priorities

Access to, and use of, space has become indispensable for both public and private users, including the European Union (EU) and its Member States. Space systems are, therefore, considered strategic infrastructure enabling Europe's global presence. Space activities and applications are vital to Europe's economic growth and prosperity. They include banking, navigation services, weather forecasting, satellite TV and radio broadcast, voice and data satellite phone services, to name a few.

The EU has its own space systems: the European global satellite navigation system GALILEO and the Earth observation programme COPERNICUS. These systems will also enable address an array of security-related concerns. Indeed, space has now been clearly recognised as a key element in the EU's security and defence-related portfolio. These systems also require protection.

The Report of the EU's High Representative of October 2013 entitled "Preparing the December 2013 European Council on Security and Defence", acknowledged that Europe is increasingly dependent on space assets and the EU needs to protect them. These realities were also reflected in the November 2013 Council Conclusions on CSDP, endorsed by the December 2013 European Council.

Space is increasingly congested due to the decades of human space activities which have generated millions of pieces of space debris. Space debris, as well as other natural (e.g. space weather) and man-induced (e.g. collisions) threats present a danger for the safety and security of space systems and operations.

Accordingly, the safety, security and sustainability of space activities are a major concern for the EU. To help address this issue, the EU supports transparency and confidence-building measures in space outer space activities through its diplomatic initiative on a proposal for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, led by the European External Action Service. This Code established rules for responsible behaviour in space with a goal to strengthen the international legal framework.

The EU also understands the need to acquire, and maintain, awareness of the population of space objects and constantly changing space environment in order to support the safe and secure operations in space. To monitor the security of European and national space infrastructures and services, the European Commission introduced a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Space Surveillance and Tracking support programme.

Did you know?

Space systems are dual-use in nature (i.e. both for civilian and military use).

There are over **500,000 objects** of size between 1-10 cm in orbit and millions smaller than 1 cm. Objects larger than 1 cm can cause partial or complete destruction of satellites and spacecraft.

It is estimated that the economic losses to European satellite operators due to the risk of collisions and the need to manoeuvre satellites to avoid collision with space debris or other satellites is **€ 210 million annually**.

Top 3 Facts

Together with its Member States, the European Union is the world's second largest space power, after the United States.

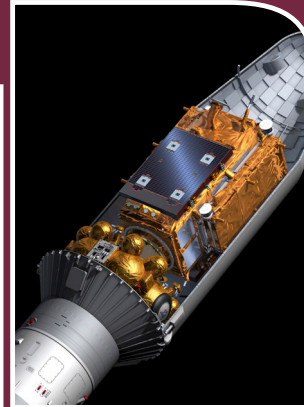
The EU has its own space systems: the European global satellite navigation system Galileo and the Earth observation programme Copernicus.

Space has an important security and defence dimension.

The EU leads a major **multilateral diplomatic initiative for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities**.

Sentinel-1 :

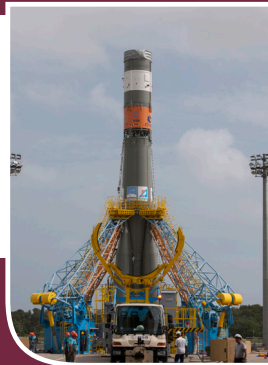
Sentinel-1, the first in the family of Copernicus satellites, will be used to monitor many aspects of our environment, from detecting and tracking oil spills and mapping sea ice to monitoring movement in land surfaces and mapping changes in the way land is used. It will also play a crucial role in providing timely information to help respond to natural disasters and assist humanitarian relief efforts.

**Cut open view of the Soyuz rocket carrying Sentinel-1A satellite:**

Cut open view of the Soyuz rocket carrying Sentinel-1A satellite.

Soyuz VS07 raised into vertical position:

Soyuz VS07 was transferred from the preparation building MIK to the Soyuz launch zone of the Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, on 31 March 2014.

**Monitoring changing ice with Sentinel-1:**

Carrying an advanced radar, Sentinel-1 can image Earth's surface no matter what the weather and regardless of whether it is day or night.

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Main links:

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament on the EEAS Website:

http://eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/index_en.htm

European Space Policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/space/index_en.htm

Council Resolution: "Global challenges: taking full benefit of European space systems":

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%2016864%202010%20INIT>

Preparing the December 2013 European Council on Security and Defence -- Final Report by the High Representative/ Head of the EDA on the Common Security and Defence Policy, Brussels, 15 October 2013:

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2013/131015_02_en.pdf

Council Conclusions on Common Security and Defence Policy, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 25-26 November 2013. Available at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/139719.pdf
<http://www.northerndimension.info/>