












Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2015/2276(INI)	Procedure completed
Space capabilities for European security and defence		
Subject		
3.40.05 Aeronautical industry, aerospace industry		
3.50.03 European space policy		
6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 AFET Foreign Affairs (Associated committee)	 ZDROJEWSKI Bogdan Andrzej Shadow rapporteur	15/09/2015
		 FRUNZULICĂ Doru-Claudian	
		 KRASNODEBSKI Zdzisław	
		 NICOLAI Norica	
		 LÖSING Sabine	
		 TARAND Indrek	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)	 MARINESCU Marian-Jean	28/10/2015

Key events			
29/10/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		
29/10/2015	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
19/04/2016	Vote in committee, 1st reading/single reading		
26/04/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A8-0151/2016	Summary
07/06/2016	Debate in Parliament		
08/06/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		

08/06/2016	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0267/2016	Summary
08/06/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2276(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/04820

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE572.951	25/01/2016	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE577.056	01/03/2016	EP	
Committee opinion	ITRE	PE575.369	11/04/2016	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0151/2016	26/04/2016	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0267/2016	08/06/2016	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2016)612	18/11/2016	EC	

2015/2276(INI) - 26/04/2016 Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI (EPPE, PL) on space capabilities for European security and defence.

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy exercising its prerogatives as an associated committee in accordance with [Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure](#), also gave its opinion on the report.

Members recalled that space policy is an essential component of the strategic autonomy which the EU must develop in order to safeguard sensitive technological and industrial capabilities and independent capabilities to carry out assessments.

Role of space-based capabilities and services: Members considered that space-based capabilities and services play an important role in the context of European security and defence and EU policies in areas such as external action, border management, maritime security, agriculture, the environment, climate action, energy security, disaster management, humanitarian aid and transport.

In this context, the report reaffirmed the importance and the added value of the Space Policy to the CSDP and that space should be included in future Union policies (e.g. internal security, transport, space, energy, research). It stressed the importance of:

- the use of space capabilities in the war against terrorism and terrorist organisations, through the ability to locate and monitor their training camps;
- improving access to space-based satellite communication, space situational awareness, precision navigation and Earth observation capabilities, and ensure European non-dependence as regards critical space technologies and access to space;
- sufficient financial investment to guarantee the autonomy of the EU as regards space structures, while providing the resources necessary for that purpose.

Space Programmes: Members recalled that the two EU flagship programmes Galileo and Copernicus are civil programmes under civil control and that the European nature of Galileo and Copernicus has made these programmes possible and ensured their success. They wanted to ensure that European space programmes develop civilian space-based capabilities and services with relevance for European security and defence capabilities, particularly through the allocation of adequate funds for research.

Bearing in mind the dual-use capacity of EU space capabilities, Members considered that a holistic, integrated, long-term approach to the space sector at EU level is necessary, and that the space sector should be mentioned in the new EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy.

The EUs needs and strategic objectives: Members asked the Commission to come up swiftly with a definition of EU needs regarding the potential contribution of the space policy to the CSDP for all the main aspects: launching, positioning, imagery, communication, space weather,

space debris, cyber security, jamming, spoofing and other intentional threats, security of the ground segment.

The development of European space capabilities for European security and defence should follow two key strategic objectives:

- security on the planet through in-orbit space systems designed to monitor the earth's surface or to provide positioning, navigation and timing information or satellite communications and
- security in outer space as well as space safety, i.e. security in orbit and in space through ground-based and in-orbit space situational awareness systems.

Operational coordination: the report stressed that cooperation between the Commission, the European External Action Service, the GNSS Agency, the European Defence Agency, the European Space Agency and the Member States is crucial to improving European space capabilities and services. The Union should coordinate and support such cooperation through a specific operational coordination centre.

The report also suggested, inter alia:

- stimulating space innovation and research for security and defence and innovative big data technologies to make use of the full potential of space data for security and defence;
- the development of the EU's various diplomatic initiatives in space issues, in both a bilateral and a multilateral context, in order to contribute to the development of the institutionalisation of space;
- setting up a permanent programme and to use the European added value of the EDA for military satellite communication as well;
- identifying any potential technological gap to facilitate EU-US cooperation on future space-based capabilities;
- continuing to facilitate the establishment of an international code of conduct on outer space activities, in order to protect space infrastructure while preventing a weaponisation of space;
- ensuring that space situational awareness / space weather, satellite communication, electronic intelligence and early warning could benefit from greater cooperation between the public and private sectors, and additional EU-level support;
- assessing how to meet the operational need for very high resolution earth observation data under the Copernicus programme;
- the further development of the EU's own Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) capacities;
- developing policies and research capabilities in order to provide future applications and develop a competitive European industry, capable of commercial success based on a healthy economic environment;
- establishing the correct regulatory and policy frameworks in order to give industry further impetus and incentives to pursue technological development and research into space capabilities.

Members welcomed the process and plans for the development of new European launchers Ariane 6 and VEGA, and considered the development of these launchers to be crucial to the long-term viability and independence of the European space programmes. They noted the strategic importance of independent access to space and the need for dedicated EU action, including with regard to security and defence.

Lastly, Members considered that creating in the long term a legal framework permitting sustained EU-level investments in security and defence capabilities could foster greater and more systematic European defence cooperation with a view to delivering key capabilities.

2015/2276(INI) - 08/06/2016 Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 446 votes to 156, with 71 abstentions, a resolution on space capabilities for European security and defence.

Members recalled that space policy is an essential component of the strategic autonomy which the EU must develop in order to safeguard sensitive technological and industrial capabilities and independent capabilities to carry out assessments. They stressed that space capabilities for European security and defence are important and, in some cases, even vital for a multitude of situations, ranging from day-to-day peacetime use to crisis management and more acute security challenges, including full-scale warfare. The development of future capabilities needs to be programmed when current capabilities are being deployed.

Role of space-based capabilities and services: Parliament considered that space-based capabilities and services play an important role in the context of European security and defence and EU policies in areas such as external action, border management, maritime security, agriculture, the environment, climate action, energy security, disaster management, humanitarian aid and transport.

In this context, Parliament reaffirmed the importance and the added value of the Space Policy to the CSDP and that space should be included in future Union policies (e.g. internal security, transport, space, energy, research). It also stressed the importance of:

- the use of space capabilities in the war against terrorism and terrorist organisations;
- improving access to space-based satellite communication, space situational awareness, precision navigation and Earth observation capabilities, and ensure European non-dependence as regards critical space technologies and access to space;
- the use of satellite capabilities to better assess and identify the flow of illegal immigrants and their routes, and, in the case of those coming from Northern Africa, to identify the ship-boarding areas in order to engage with them faster and save more lives;
- sufficient financial investment to guarantee the autonomy of the EU as regards space structures, while providing the resources necessary for that purpose.

Space Programmes: Parliament recalled that the two EU flagship programmes [Galileo](#) and [Copernicus](#) are civil programmes under civil control and that the European nature of Galileo and Copernicus has made these programmes possible and ensured their success. They wanted to ensure that European space programmes develop civilian space-based capabilities and services with relevance for European security and defence capabilities, particularly through the allocation of adequate funds for research.

Bearing in mind the dual-use capacity of EU space capabilities, Members considered that a holistic, integrated, long-term approach to the space sector at EU level is necessary, and that the space sector should be mentioned in the new EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy.

Parliament noted the importance of Galileo's Public Regulated Service (PRS) for navigation and guidance of military systems; calls on the High Representative and the EU Member States to increase their efforts regarding a possible revision of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty or to initiate a new regulatory framework that takes account of technological progress since the 1960s and aims to prevent an arms race in space. Members

encouraged the identification and development of security- and defence-related capacity needs for the next generations of the Galileo and Copernicus systems.

The EUs needs and strategic objectives: Parliament asked the Commission to come up swiftly with a definition of EU needs regarding the potential contribution of the space policy to the CSDP for all the main aspects: launching, positioning, imagery, communication, space weather, space debris, cyber security, jamming, spoofing and other intentional threats, security of the ground segment.

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Operational coordination: the resolution stressed that cooperation between the Commission, the European External Action Service, the GNSS Agency, the European Defence Agency, the European Space Agency and the Member States is crucial to improving European space capabilities and services. The Union should coordinate and support such cooperation through a specific operational coordination centre.

Parliament also suggested, inter alia:

- stimulating space innovation and research for security and defence and innovative big data technologies to make use of the full potential of space data for security and defence;
- the development of the EU's various diplomatic initiatives in space issues, in both a bilateral and a multilateral context, in order to contribute to the development of the institutionalisation of space;
- setting up a permanent programme and to use the European added value of the EDA for military satellite communication as well;
- identifying any potential technological gap to facilitate EU-US cooperation on future space-based capabilities;
- strengthen EU-NATO cooperation in the area of security and defence policy and in collective defence;
- continuing to facilitate the establishment of an international code of conduct on outer space activities, in order to protect space infrastructure while preventing a weaponisation of space;
- ensuring that space situational awareness / space weather, satellite communication, electronic intelligence and early warning could benefit from greater cooperation between the public and private sectors, and additional EU-level support;
- assessing how to meet the operational need for very high resolution earth observation data under the Copernicus programme;
- the further development of the EUs own [Space Surveillance and Tracking](#) (SST) capacities;
- developing policies and research capabilities in order to provide future applications and develop a competitive European industry, capable of commercial success based on a healthy economic environment;
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