

Space programme 2021-2027 and European Union Agency for the Space Programme

2018/0236(COD) - 06/06/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish the space programme of the Union for the period 2021-2027 and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: space technology, data and services have become indispensable in the daily lives of Europeans and play an essential role in preserving many strategic interests. Space supports many policies and strategic priorities of the Union. It can play a crucial role in effectively tackling new challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, border control, maritime surveillance and security of Union citizens.

The Union's space industry is already one of the most competitive in the world. However, the emergence of new players and the development of new technologies are revolutionising traditional industrial models. It is therefore crucial that the Union remains a leading international player with extensive freedom of action in the space domain, that it encourages scientific and technical progress and support the competitiveness and innovation capacity of space sector industries within the Union, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups and innovative businesses.

The Commission stressed in the [space strategy for Europe](#), the importance of ensuring the continued operation of the services offered by [Galileo and EGNOS](#) (the global and regional satellite navigation systems) and [Copernicus](#) (Union Earth observation and monitoring programme) and of preparing new generations of these services, enhancing the space surveillance and tracking ([SST](#)) services and announced the governmental satellite communications initiative GOVSATCOM.

The Commission's approach was advocated both by the Council in its conclusions adopted on 30 May 2017 and by the European Parliament in its [resolution](#) of 12 September 2017.

The development and implementation of a space programme is beyond the financial and technical capabilities of a single Member State and can only be achieved at EU level. By providing a coherent framework for future investment, a fully integrated space programme shall bring together all the Union's activities in this highly strategic field.

CONTENT: the proposal for a Regulation - presented for a Union of 27 Member States - seeks to establish the space programme of the Union for the period 2021-2027. It aims to consolidate all existing and new space activities in a single programme.

The general objectives of the proposed new programme are as follows:

- provide high-quality, up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space data, information and services, where possible on a global scale, meeting existing and future needs and able to meet the Union's political priorities, including climate change and security and defence;
- maximise socio-economic benefits, including by promoting the widest possible use of data, information and services provided by programme components;
- strengthen the security of the Union and its Member States, its freedom of action and its strategic autonomy;
- promote the Union's role on the international stage as a leading actor in the space sector.

The programme shall have the following specific objectives:

Galileo and EGNOS: to provide of state-of-the-art and, where appropriate, secure positioning, navigation and timing services. The programme shall continue to invest in operations and infrastructure to complement and maintain the satellite constellation, improve signal precision to provide positioning information for autonomous and connected vehicles, railways, aviation and other sectors, and encourage the market introduction of satellite navigation services;

Copernicus: to deliver accurate and reliable Earth Observation data and information, supplied on a long-term basis, to support the implementation and monitoring of the Union and its Member States' policies in the fields of the environment, climate change, agriculture and rural development, civil protection, safety and security, as well as the digital economy;

Space Situational Awareness (SSA): to enhance SST capabilities to monitor, track and identify space objects which helps avoid collisions in space and monitors the re-entry of space objects to Earth, to monitor space weather and to map and network Member States near Earth object capacities;

GOVSATCOM: to ensure the long-term availability of reliable, secure and cost-effective satellite communications services, to enhance the operational effectiveness of security actors and safeguard citizens' rights to security, to diplomatic or consular protection, and to protection of personal data.

The programme shall also: (i) contribute, where this is required for the needs of the Programme, to an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space; (ii) support and reinforce the competitiveness, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity to innovate of legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector, with particular regard to the position and needs of small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups.

Governance: the proposal clarifies the relations between the various players involved and the role of these players, mainly the Member States, the Commission and the European Union Agency for Space, and by establishing a unified system of governance for all the components of this programme. It enhances the role of the former European GNSS Agency by expanding the scope of its tasks as regards security accreditation

to include all the components of the Programme, thus justifying a change of name for this agency, which is to become the European Union Agency for the Space Programme.

Lastly, it specifies and standardises the security framework for the Programme, particularly as regards the principles to be respected, procedures to be followed and measures to be taken, which is of crucial importance, given the dual use nature of the actions.

The programme shares similar objectives with other Union programmes, notably [Horizon Europe](#), [InvestEU](#) Fund, European Defence Fund and Funds under Regulation (EU) on the [common provisions Regulation](#).

Therefore, cumulative funding from those programmes should be foreseen.

Proposed budget: the programme shall have an overall budget of EUR 16 billion in current prices for the period 2021-2027, with the following indicative breakdown:

- for Galileo and EGNOS: EUR 9.7 billion;
- for Copernicus: EUR 5.8 billion;
- for SSA/Govsatcom: EUR 0.5 billion.