

Council adopts position on €14.8 billion EU space programme for 2021-2027

The Council today adopted its first reading position on the proposed regulation establishing the EU space programme (“the programme”) for the years 2021 to 2027. This follows up on a deal reached last December with the European Parliament that paves the way for the swift adoption of the draft regulation at second reading.



The EU relies on space activities as drivers of sustainable economic growth and security. Our new EU space programme will enable us to remain competitive in the New Space economy and to preserve the EU’s space sovereignty. It will boost our economic recovery from the pandemic and our transition towards a green and digital economic model.

Manuel Heitor, Portuguese Minister for Science and Technology and Higher Education

The regulation will ensure:

- high-quality, up-to-date and secure space-related data and services;
- greater socio-economic benefits from the use of such data and services, such as increased growth and job creation in the EU;
- enhanced security and autonomy of the EU;
- a stronger role for the EU as a leading actor in the space sector.

It will achieve this by:

- simplifying and streamlining the existing EU legal framework on space policy;
- providing the EU with an adequate space budget to continue and improve on existing space flagship programmes such as EGNOS, Galileo and Copernicus, as well as monitor space hazards under the ‘space situational awareness’ component (SSA) and cater for access to secure satellite communications for national authorities (GOVSATCOM);
- establishing the rules for governance of the EU space programme;
- standardising the security framework of the space programme.

Next steps

In line with the political agreement reached last December between the co-legislators, the European Parliament is expected to approve the Council’s

position at first reading in April 2021. The regulation will then be deemed to have been formally adopted. It will apply retroactively from 1 January 2021.