



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION SPACE STRATEGY FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE

MARCH 2024

#EUDefence
#EUSpace
#StrategicCompass
#EUDefenceIndustry

Space is critical for our societies and economy and is a key enabler for security and defence.

In a geopolitical context of increasing power competition and intensification of threats to the EU and its Member States, EU leaders have identified in the Strategic Compass space as a strategic domain. As a result, the first **EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence** was released in 2023. While implementing this new strategy, **the EU is taking action to defend its interests, deter hostile activities in space and strengthen its strategic posture and autonomy.**

SPACE DOMAIN AND SPACE THREATS

The space domain includes all elements relevant for the functioning of space systems and the delivery of space-based services, including the physical space environment, different orbits and spacecraft, their ground and launch infrastructure, radio frequency links, user terminals, information related to and delivered from these space assets, the relating cyber environment and the underlying industrial space sector.

Threats generated by **counterspace capabilities** are directed against **space systems**, their supporting **ground infrastructure**, and the **data-links** between space systems and the ground infrastructure. **Counterspace capabilities** include direct-ascent and co-orbital anti-satellite systems, cyber attacks, electronic warfare and directed energy.

They can **disrupt, damage or destroy**, with **reversible or irreversible** effect.

The space sector and its **supply-chains** are also vulnerable to interferences by competitors.

UNDERSTANDING SPACE THREATS

The High Representative, with the support of Single Intelligence Analysis Capability, issues a classified **annual space threat landscape analysis** that includes the evolution of counterspace capabilities.

ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE AND PROTECTION OF SPACE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES IN THE UNION



Potential EU Space Law:

- Enhance the level of security and resilience of space operations and services in the EU, as well as their safety and sustainability
- Encourage the development of resilience measures in the EU
- Foster information-exchange on incidents as well as cross-border coordination and cooperation

EU SPACE LAW

SAFETY

RESILIENCE

SUSTAINABILITY



EU Space Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (as from 2024):

- Facilitated by the Commission and the EU Space Programme Agency (EUSPA)
- Raise awareness and facilitate exchange of best practices to enhance the resilience of EU space industry
- Create a trusted environment to share information on incidents



Developing technologies and capabilities to increase resilience:

- Roadmap to reduce strategic dependencies on technologies that are critical for space (2024)
- Synergies between the European Defence Fund, the EU Space Programme, the Union Security Connectivity Programme (IRIS²), Horizon Europe and other relevant programmes
- Ensure that EU initiatives, including the Chips Act, the Critical Raw Materials Act, as well as possibly alliances and Important Projects of Common European Interest strengthen security of supply and the resilience of space systems and services

ENSURING LONG-TERM EU AUTONOMOUS ACCESS TO SPACE

The Commission will take actions to stimulate the responsiveness and versatility of EU access to space by boosting new EU launcher systems, by proposing preparatory actions to ensure long-term EU autonomous access to space and by addressing, in particular, security and defence needs, together with Member States.



RESPONDING TO SPACE THREATS

- Space Domain Awareness (SDA) information by Member States to ensure detection and respond to space threats
- Improve the EU Space Threat Response Architecture to cover all threats in the space domain which may affect the security of the EU and its Member States
- Develop and conduct space exercises at EU level, including to test and explore solidarity mechanisms in case of space threats (for example through [STRA-X-24](#))

ENHANCING THE EU SPACE THREAT RESPONSE ARCHITECTURE

Detect, characterise and attribute threats in the space domain and react in a timely, proportionate, and coherent manner. Annual exercises take place to enhance the response mechanism.



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ENHANCING THE USE OF EU SPACE CAPABILITIES FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE

- Better connect space, defence and security at EU level
- **Incentivise collaborative work between space, security and defence start-ups** to develop disruptive services for security and defence
- **Improve skills of public administration and industry** to further develop space services for security and defence



SPACE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES SUPPORTING DEFENCE

Two new pilot projects are being developed:

(1) a new earth observation governmental service, within Copernicus and building on the complementary role of the EU Satellite Centre and EUSPA, and **(2) an analysis to assess how new capabilities could reinforce EU Space Surveillance and Tracking and Member States' SDA.**

The Commission will consider military needs and requirements when defining the service portfolio of the Union Security Connectivity Programme (IRIS²).

When developing future EU space programmes, long-term military requirements for space-based defence services will be taken into account.

PARTNERING FOR RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOURS IN OUTER SPACE



Engaging within the United Nations framework to support a common understanding of space security and promote responsible behaviours



Working with the US as strategic partners to deepen EU-US space security and defence cooperation in a mutually beneficial way



Developing space security dialogues with third countries to enhance transparency, build confidence and exchange best practices



Deepening EU-NATO cooperation on space security and defence through regular exchanges

EU EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Forging strong partnerships with third countries and international organisations is essential to promote a common vision for peaceful use of space and responsible behaviours, to avoid misperception and unintended escalation, to exchange information and share best practices on the resilience of space infrastructures, and to support the use of space services for security and defence.

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