

The importance of space for EU security, defence and resilience

A workshop organised by the French Permanent Representation to the European Union in cooperation with the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).



9:15-12:30 CEST, 4 October 2021

CONCEPT

Space is critical for the security and the prosperity of the Union. Member States increasingly rely on space as a strategic domain to safeguard their economic and strategic interests and their security. In addition, a wide range of civilian and military activities are entirely dependent on our ability to maintain safe and secure access to space. **Their resilience is a strategic issue.**

However, partly due to the fact that powers' competition has reached the stars, **our freedom of access to and action in space is at stake.** A rapidly evolving domain, space is increasingly exposed to irresponsible actions and threatening behaviours such as anti-satellite launches, proximity manoeuvres, jamming, dazzling and other displays of force orchestrated by major powers. And all this could increase the risk of tensions and uncontrolled escalation in space with consequences **spilling in all other domains.**

Besides, **the ever-growing activities in outer space also represent a challenge for the EU.** The congestion in orbit and the increasing number of space debris lead to a higher possibility of collisions. Satellite collisions are even more preoccupying that space is no longer the prerogative of a small number of States and is set to be used by commercial actors.

The EU has already focused on **developing some tools to tackle these challenges and address some of the above-mentioned threats**, such as the EU-SST initiative through the European space programme.

However, **the EU and its Member States should now be capable of assessing and addressing proportionally and collectively** to the whole spectrum of space events we could face, in particular by promoting and supporting responsible behaviors in outer space.

By offering a transversal approach, this workshop aims to foster **a comprehensive reflection on the rapidly evolving strategic environment in space, discuss the EU's current assets and vulnerabilities and put forward concrete policy orientations** for an enhanced and more ambitious EU's position and resilience in space.

PROGRAMME

09:15-09:30

Introduction

Claire RAULIN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the EU Political and Security Committee, France

09:30-10:45

Session I – An assessment of the current strategic environment and the associated challenges

Speakers

Patrick CHATARD MOULIN

Deputy Head of Division, Space, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

Bertrand LE MEUR

Director, Department of Defense Strategy, Foresight and Counter-proliferation, French Ministry of the Armed Forces

Xavier PASCO

Director, Foundation for Strategic Research

Torben SCHÜTZ

Research Fellow, Defence AI Observatory

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:45-11:15

Break

11:15-12:30

Session II – Setting an adequate level of ambition for the EU on diplomatic and political levels

Speakers

Sorin DUCARU

Director, EU Satellite Centre

Catherine KAVVADA

Director, Space Development & Innovation, Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space, European Commission

Ester SABATINO

Research Analyst, Defence and Military Analysis, International Institute for Strategic Studies

Alexandre VULIC

Deputy Director, Strategic, Security and Disarmament Affairs, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies