

Draft Statement

**COVID-19 and the European Space Sector**

**The European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC):**

RECOGNISES that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted European economies, and that it has also taken a toll on the European space sector, whether through the impact on labour, operations and business or through its wider macroeconomic implications;

EMPHASISES that space-based Earth observation, navigation and communication services have been useful in the processes of crisis monitoring and crisis response – for example, by monitoring human activity from space, governments have been able to track the impact of COVID-19 on society;

UNDERLINES the important development and use of space-based services to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and build a sustainable, digital and green European economy to support the recovery of Europe;

UNDERLINES that COVID-19 has shown the importance of satellite data for a digital society, for providing services to citizens and ensuring good governance through a crisis, as a strong European space sector is important for ensuring European recovery from the pandemic;

RECOGNISES that the use of space data and technologies contributes to connectivity and innovative new solutions at a time when Europe is digitalizing at an unprecedented rate. The current momentum should be fully used to speed up the development of new and better public and private services;

EMPHASISES the necessity to take leadership and develop effective means to support the European space industry through and after the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure continuous competitiveness and prevent the loss of critical capabilities;

UNDERLINES the vital importance of a strong space sector for European strategic autonomy and encourages measures to ensure Europe remains a leading international actor in space by adopting a strong, coordinated and inclusive European framework for cooperation and competition.