

RESOLUTION

The European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC):

RECALLS the obligations under international law and those specifically contained in the United Nations' treaties to maintain peaceful (cf. UN GA RES 68/74, 11.12.2013) and sustainable use of outer space;

ENCOURAGES responsible behaviour in outer space, in particular by mitigating space debris and by establishing a Space Traffic Management framework, and to ensure the safety of space activities and to minimise the potential harm to the environment;

NOTES the need for consistency of the legal framework of space activities, in particular for the involvement of non-governmental entities;

RECALLS the statement adopted by EISC on 24 September 2020 highlighting the importance of space in the economic recovery for Europe;

UNDERLINES the vital importance of a strong space sector for Europe's strategic autonomy;

ENCOURAGES further measures to ensure Europe's status as a leading international actor in space by adopting a coordinated and inclusive European framework for cooperation and competitiveness;

The XXIII. European Interparliamentary Space Conference:

1. Development of National Space Laws

WELCOMES the initiatives and efforts already undertaken and completed by some European States for the development and adoption of appropriate national space legislations;

ENCOURAGES all European States to pursue their considerations regarding a national legal framework for space activities;

INVITES European States to a continuous exchange on their respective national space legislation

2. Space and Satellites in the Arctic

RECOGNISES the degree of interdependence and connectedness of Europe to developments in the Arctic region;

HIGHLIGHTES the importance of satellite technologies for modern society and in particular for the Arctic region, which suffers from limited infrastructure and large distances;

STRESSES the need to further the crucial role of satellite technologies in monitoring climate change impacting the Arctic in the light of the loss of sea ice and thawing permafrost;

TAKES INTO ACCOUNT the advantageous geographical positions of the polar regions for the downloading of data and communication with satellites in Polar orbits;

3. Space after the Pandemic

ACKNOWLEDGES the valuable contribution of a strong European space sector and space-based services to the further transition towards a sustainable and digital European economy, especially in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

CALLS ON all European space actors, including European governments and institutions to

- take leadership in the continuous development of effective means to support European space research and industry, both in the upstream and downstream sector, during and after the COVID-19 crisis, as to ensure continuous competitiveness and leadership as well as to prevent the loss of critical capabilities;
- strengthen the current momentum in digitalising Europe with the help of space data and technology, which should be taken full advantage of towards developing and improving innovative public and private services in a more digital society, providing services to citizens and ensuring good governance;
- foster the development of space activities, applications and services benefiting sectors of the economy that have suffered from the COVID-19 crisis;
- use European spaceports wherever possible, when launching satellites so as to support this important strategic capacity for Europe;
- support the EU Connectivity Initiative, which should be clearly aligned with the needs to be evaluated, exploit economic competition as much as possible and involve all capable companies (especially start-ups and SMEs) appropriately from the outset.

FURTHER CALLS ON all European space actors, including European governments and institutions to

- continue and further develop the role and capacities of European Space Programmes, especially Copernicus, in monitoring climate change and its consequences in the Arctic, on the environment and on infrastructures,
- further enhance the cooperation on ocean surveillance in Arctic waters, in light of increased maritime activity,
- support the work to strengthen secure communication in the Arctic region to improve the security of people and their activities,
- support the development of downstream satellite services such as weather forecasting, situational awareness, communication, positioning,
- support the development of space situational awareness capabilities, also over the Arctic region,
- support autonomous shipping to improve the safety for ships operating in harsh Arctic conditions.