



The Hague Manifesto on Space Policy

The Hague Manifesto on Space Policy covers the following subjects: context, challenges, concrete topics, competitiveness, continuity, creating awareness and constructive cooperation.

Context of the Manifesto

- This Manifesto presents the main findings on space policy of the 2016 Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the EU,¹ with the intention of serving as input for the forthcoming Space Strategy for Europe and the joint ESA-EU statement on this strategy.
- The space domain - with its technological developments and the use of space data, signals and applications - can stimulate sustainable growth and jobs in the European Union and can help find solutions for global societal challenges. The use of space data, signals and applications also provides an opportunity for citizens to obtain more information and for public authorities to increase citizen involvement.

¹These findings are the combined results from the Competitiveness Council on Space meeting on 26 May 2016, the EU-ESA Informal Space Ministerial Meeting (ISMM) on 30 May 2016 and the main messages of the opening and policy days of the European Space Solutions Conference (30 and 31 May 2016).

- To fully benefit from the potential of space programmes and systems, a shared, coherent vision and strategy on EU and ESA space policy will help chart the course for the years to come, thus guiding the development of the European space programmes in the period until 2030.

Challenges for European Space policy

- Accomplish full integration of space into the European economy and society, involving public authorities, the research community, the private sector and citizens. This includes removing the obstacles to an optimal uptake of space data, thereby contributing as much as possible to tackling societal challenges (such as climate change) with the use of space data, as well as providing a testbed for digital/big data challenges. It also involves enabling potential public and private users of space data, signals and applications by raising awareness and providing tools (e.g. training) to maximise the uptake of space data. Another element is connecting the relevant EU policy areas to the potential benefits of space applications in the field concerned.
- Support Europe to remain globally competitive in the space domain.
- Ensuring independent and affordable access to space.
- Follow the developments and seize the opportunities offered by the trend “New Space”, such as the focus on small satellites, large satellite constellations and solving societal challenges.

Concrete topics on uptake data and security

- Foster a solid uptake of space data by the market, public authorities and citizens, providing an increased return on investment in space infrastructure and space programmes. To achieve this, assess how to

remove technical and unnecessary legal barriers and how to establish a thriving ecosystem with smart funding approaches.

- Focus on multiple aspects in the domain of space and security, such as space debris, space weather, dependence on space signals/data and space for security and search/rescue purposes.

Competitiveness and innovation

- Ensure that Europe maintains its strong and globally competitive space sector, both in the upstream industry and for organisations active in the uptake of space data, paying special attention to private sector financing, such as attracting venture capital.
- Ensure independent and affordable access to space for Europe. An important element is to use – whenever feasible – current and future launchers developed in Europe by European and national institutional customers, provided these launch services are offered at a competitive price. Additionally, analyse the need to create favourable conditions in Europe for the development of a low-cost launch capability, including spaceports.
- Foster innovation in the downstream sector - as it is a fundamental link between the EU space programmes and the end users - notably by supporting start-ups and developing skills (training).

Continuity of data and signals

- Give priority to the further development and evolution of the existing European space infrastructures, particularly the Galileo and Copernicus programmes. Continuity and predictability of data and signals is key, especially in ensuring market confidence and uptake.

This is also important in connecting Copernicus services to the downstream sector in order for this sector to further develop commercial activities based on satellite data.

Create awareness

- Set up a three-pronged strategy for raising awareness:
 - 1) Make public authorities, the research community and the private sector aware of the (economic) opportunities of using space data, signals and applications. Invest in the development and sharing of good practices and business cases in the EU and ensure sufficient skilled people are trained.
 - 2) Promote the use of space through EU programmes, principally Horizon 2020 and future Framework Programmes. Work towards synergy in the development of the European Space Strategy, Horizon 2020 and future Framework Programmes on the topic of space.
 - 3) Actively involve citizens.

Constructive cooperation

- Make efficient, reliable and consistent European cooperation between the EU, ESA and their Member States, based on existing expertise and capabilities, a essential precondition for the strategy, with collective action on multiple aspects of the space strategy.
- Work *on* and *in* space clusters, with the research community, public authorities and private organisations/businesses, in order to establish an integrated approach and learn from one another.

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The Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union