

Joint Statement by Third-Country Space Industry Associations on The EU Space Act

International space industry associations representing operators and companies from third countries welcome the European Commission's draft EU Space Act. As long-standing partners to the European space ecosystem, we recognise the importance of strengthening safety, resilience, and security across all segments of the sector.

Europe's space economy has been built on international cooperation, open markets, and cross-border partnerships. Third-country partners play a significant role in sustaining Europe's connectivity, innovation, and supply-chain resilience. As global markets evolve, maintaining reciprocal and interoperable regulatory frameworks also helps ensure that European operators can continue contributing competitively to space programmes worldwide.

We underline one central point to EU policymakers:

“Without clear pathways for recognising equivalent standards and certifications from trusted third countries, the EU Space Act risks unintentionally restricting cross-border cooperation and reducing Europe's access to innovative and cost-effective services. Regulatory interoperability is essential to sustaining Europe's competitiveness and the health of its wider space ecosystem.”

As the legislative process advances, we encourage EU institutions to ensure that the emerging framework remains balanced, inclusive, and globally interoperable, enabling trusted third-country partners to continue contributing to Europe's strategic objectives.

We jointly call for:

- Recognition of equivalent international standards and certifications, avoiding duplication and conflicting obligations.
- Transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory processes for market access, authorisation, and ongoing operations.
- Open and structured dialogue between EU institutions and international industry stakeholders throughout the development of the EU Space Act.

Policymakers should pivot toward performance-based standards, as they are better suited to fostering innovation and maintaining global competitiveness. Risk-based standards require regulators to anticipate future hazards, estimate their probabilities, and classify operators by perceived risk. In a rapidly evolving space environment—with new orbits, constellations, and technologies—such risk assessments can quickly become outdated or overly conservative. Performance-based standards, by contrast, define the required outcomes without prescribing how operators must achieve them, offering greater flexibility.

The space sector is inherently international. Reflecting this reality in the final EU Space Act will strengthen Europe's industrial leadership, foster innovation, and deepen cooperation with like-minded partners, while safeguarding long-term security and sustainability.

We urge the EU policymakers to include third-country associations in structured discussions, as they represent the voice of operators across the space value chain, including a large number of SMEs that form the backbone of the space supply chain.

Prioritising equivalence, proportionality, mutual recognition, and interoperability will help ensure that the EU Space Act enhances safety and sustainability while keeping Europe competitive in a rapidly evolving global space economy.

Third-country associations reaffirm their commitment to supporting Europe's vision for safe, sustainable, and responsible space operations. We remain committed to constructive engagement with all EU institutions as discussions on the EU Space Act progress.

GraySpace Consulting based in Belgium coordinated the joint call from Third-Country Space Industry Associations. This coordination reflects a collaborative effort to consolidate perspectives across diverse space markets and operational segments within the space sector.

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