POSITION PAPER ON THE EU SPACE STRATEGY ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

Current geopolitical situation and extreme dependency on the satellite-based services including the secure connectivity, accurate geolocation and navigation, as well as real-time and very high-resolution satellite imagery demonstrate the importance of autonomous, sovereign, and resilient critical space infrastructure, with several alternative European end-to-end solutions available when required.

YEESS Members welcome the development of an ambitious EU Space Strategy on Security and Defence (Strategy) reasserting the space sectors outmost importance in the defence and security realm. The space activities are naturally built upon international cooperation, with national strategies not being sufficient in this borderless area to protect the European security. The Strategy will thus be as efficient in shaping a strong and sovereign Europe, as it will rely on a committed and large alignment on global objectives, shared among all concerned stakeholders.

To be impactful, this Strategy should also secure the European Commission a strong financial backing fostering its proper implementation and development of the tailored set of tools to ensure the coordination within Europe.

The Strategy scope should encompass the strengthening of innovation, autonomy, and competitiveness of European capabilities and expertise, to be responsive to immediate needs, while preparing for countering the future mid- to long-term threats.

We believe the capabilities shall be built around the following key vectors:

RESPONSIVE SPACE

The development of multiple non-dependent technological turnkey solutions at the European level, at the forefront of viable innovation to counter emerging threats, in a timely manner. As such, Responsive Space (with available and standardized assets and services, secured all over a competitive European supply and value chain, both in upstream and downstream), as well as in-space capabilities (with appropriate infrastructure and assets for Space Situational Awareness, last-mile delivery, automated rendezvous, proximity operations, docking, and undocking), are the areas that should be prioritized.

AGILE PROCUREMENT

New industrial and procurement policies shall be adopted adjusting to the acceleration of space activities and realistic bidding capabilities of startups and scaleups. They shall also specify needs more than technologies, be fast-paced and streamlined, if we want to adapt best and promptly for future threats.

ENGAGEMENT OF THE NEWSPACE CAPABILITIES

To meet the necessary agility and timeliness of solutions, next to the incumbent industrial stakeholders, the startups and scaleups shall be equally considered and given guaranteed chances to offer fast and viable responses, combined with technical performance and reliability, that defence and security matters need today, as such bringing added value to the Strategy.

YEESS Syndicate