

# Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

This week Vice-President Tajani participated in the Competitiveness Council, held in Brussels on May 30 and 31, talking about the European space strategy.



Antonio Preto  
Head of Cabinet

First of all Vice-President Tajani expressed his appreciation for the Presidency and Member States' Ministers support to the Commission's ideas set out in the Communication on the future EU space strategy.

In fact the discussion comes at a crucial moment when the broad budget lines and priorities for the next decade are being defined. The Vice-President underlined how space policy should find its proper place, given the sector's strategic importance in addressing some of the fundamental social and economic challenges facing Europe today.

Vice-President Tajani recalled the important objectives of the European space strategy outlined by the Commission. The goal is to promote scientific and technological progress, stimulate industrial innovation and competitiveness, enable European citizens to reap the benefits of space applications and raise Europe's profile on the international stage in the area of space. To this end, the Vice-President stressed that it is crucial for Europe to maintain independent access to space. Without this fundamental requisite, the Union will be dependent on the good will of others for the realisation of a common and efficient space strategy and this is a risk that we cannot afford to take.



Vice-President Tajani further insisted on the importance of ensuring the success of the flagship project Galileo/Egnos and GMES. These programmes, as integral part of the *Europe 2020* strategy, will give rise to innovative downstream services, new business opportunities and jobs creation across various sectors of the European economy.

Another fundamental point touched upon was the security of European space infrastructure, which is critical for the smooth running of our societies and economies, as well as for the security and wellbeing of European citizens. To this end, as specified in the Communication, the Vice-President recalled the need for Europe to develop its own Space Situations Awareness (SSA) capacity.

Reinforcing and supporting space research and innovation is also part of the agenda, to fight back the growing international competition with new and emerging space powers and to make 'Innovation Union' a reality.



Overall, the core objectives of the space policy remain to achieve a steady and balanced development of the industrial base as a whole, including SMEs, greater competitiveness on the world stage; non-dependence for strategic sub-sectors, and development of the market for space products and services. To reach this, international cooperation is vital and thus, the Vice-President stressed the importance of keeping 'space dialogues' open with strategic partners.

As to the means to achieve all this, Vice-President Tajani announced that the Commission is listening very carefully to the views of Member States and the reactions of industry and other stakeholders to the Communication. On the basis of this, the Commission will come back with more concrete proposal and ideas of what the Union could practically do in space in the coming decades.

The big challenges are set. The ambitions and will are there. Let's go for it!