SPACE POLICY EXPERT GROUP (SPEG)

Sub-Group on Space Technologies

Draft Mandate

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

The Commission may consult the Space Policy Expert Sub-group on space technologies (hereinafter "SPEG sub-group") in view of an improved coordination and policy based approach regarding space technologies and associated actions to be supported by the Union.

TASKS

The tasks of SPEG sub-group shall inter alia include:

- Technology roadmapping: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation for space technologies aiming at enhancing consistency and integration of Union actions with existing European road-mapping processes notably the ESA Harmonisation and the European Space Component Coordination (ESCC) and its Component Technology Board (CTB);

- Critical space technologies: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation in the context of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on Critical Space Technologies;

- In-orbit validation and demonstration: identification of a list of actions for 2018-2020 and monitoring of their implementation (similarly to the JTF);

- Partnership with industry: identification of options and areas for a partnership with industry such as a Joint Technology Initiative on space technologies.

- Market/supply chain: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation for space technologies aiming at addressing vulnerability and sustainability of supply chains and other market aspects:

- Standardisation: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation for space technologies aiming at enhancing consistency and integration of Union actions (e.g. CEN/CENELEC) with existing European processes such as the European Space Component Coordination (ESCC) and its European Cooperation for Space Standardisation (ECSS);

- Key enabling technologies: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation aiming at establishing synergies between space and non-space in areas with a high potential of technology transfer;

- Green and clean space: identification of actions and monitoring of their implementation aiming at identifying space and Earth environment friendly technology subjects.
MEMBERSHIP - SELECTION PROCESS

The SPEG sub-group shall be composed by the Union Member States. Each Member State shall designate two representatives (member and alternate).

OPERATION

The SPEG sub-group shall be convened at the request of the Commission. The Space Policy and Research unit of the Commission will chair the SPEG sub-group and provide secretarial support. The SPEG sub-group meetings shall, in principle, be held in the Commission premises. Discussion of the SPEG sub-group shall be shortly summarised by the Commission. The SPEG sub-group shall operate by consensus. The SPEG sub-group shall report to SPEG through the Commission.

INVITATION OF EXPERTS

The Commission may invite industry (as represented by its established European associations) and research organisations on a case-by-case basis. The Commission may invite experts with specific expertise on a subject matter of the agenda to take part in the work of the SPEG sub-group on an ad hoc basis.

OBSERVERS

The Commission may grant an observer status to individuals/organisations/public entities by direct invitation. Organisations/public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the sub-group and provide expertise.

In principle, all SPEG observers shall also be invited as observers in this sub-group.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Similarly to SPEG, its sub-group will operate in an informal setting without any formal rules of procedure.

PROFESSIONAL SECRECY AND HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The SPEG sub-group members as well as invited experts and observers are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the Union institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 and 2015/444. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Commission will reimburse the travel expenses of one (1) representative per Member State participating in meetings of SPEG sub-group and its ad-hoc groups.

DISSOLUTION

The SPEG sub-group shall be dissolved by the Commission as soon as its mandate is fulfilled.