



## SPACE POLICY EXPERT GROUP: ACTIVITY REPORT JULY 2012 - JULY 2013

The Space Policy Expert Group has been active since July 2010. Its main purpose is to provide expert advice to the European Commission/DG Enterprise and Industry in the early phase of developing its policy initiatives in the area of EU space policy. During the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013, the group held four meetings:

### 1. MEETING ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012

This meeting focused on two key topics: EU space industrial policy and Space and security. The topics addressed under **Space industrial policy** included a discussion on the Commission's planned communication on EU space industrial policy, and the interim results of an external study on regulatory issues concerning commercial suborbital flights and the need for a clear regulatory framework to stimulate the emergence of this new potential market in the EU. Lastly, the Commission presented its ideas about a potential EU initiative on private satellite data.

Under **Space and security** the Commission updated members of the group on its reflections on the setting up a European Space Situational Awareness (SSA) system.

The Commission also provided a brief update on latest developments in **international relations in space**, with an emphasis on the first meeting of the EU-China space technology dialogue scheduled on 14 August 2012 in Brussels.

### 2. MEETING ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012

In this meeting the Commission further developed its ideas about a **possible regulatory initiative on private high-resolution satellite data**, where a few options for action were outlined – from a comprehensive regulatory approach to lighter forms of coordination.

Other issues addressed during the meeting included a discussion on **possible impacts of the REACH directive on the European space industry**; further discussion on **commercial suborbital spaceflights**; and a presentation of the results of the latest **Eurobarometer survey on space 2012**.

The Commission also informed MS delegations about the latest discussions with the US counterparts, which had taken place on 29 November 2012 at the GSA office in Prague, and presented the timeline towards the next high-level space exploration conference to be hosted by the US in early 2014 (as a follow-up to the Lucca conference of 2011).

### 3. MEETING ON 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013

The Commission presented the Communication on “**EU space industrial policy: releasing the potential for economic growth in the space sector**”, adopted on 28 February 2013. The list of follow-up measures envisaged in this communication was also outlined.

Delegations and the Commissions continued their discussion on a **possible regulatory initiative on high-resolution satellite data for commercial purposes**. COM provided more detailed explanations on the rationale for such an initiative.

The subject of **commercial suborbital flights** was addressed again in the presence of experts from the European Aviation Safety Authority (EASA).

The afternoon session included an exchange on the **EU-ESA relations** and their possible evolution, following the adoption by the Commission of a communication on this subject in February 2013, as well as a short item on the preparation of another Eurobarometer survey on space in 2013, where MS input was invited.

### 4. MEETING ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013

A discussion on the **follow-up to the February 2013 Space industrial policy communication** focused on the set of follow-up measures and their prioritisation. MS insisted on the importance of keeping to the subsidiarity principle and the need to avoid duplication with what MS individually, or through ESA, are doing in this domain. More detailed discussions on the individual actions would continue in future meetings.

With regard to the **possible initiative on high-resolution satellite data**, COM presented the results of a public consultation and public hearing held on 12 July 2013. Work on this topic will continue as COM intends to finalise its impact assessment after the summer break.

An ongoing (external) study on the **evaluation of the socio-economic impacts of space activities in the EU** was presented to delegations. This study could serve as a precursor to develop a potential common and harmonised European methodology.

On the subject of **EU-ESA relations** there was a technical presentation by the external contractor on the methodology for an ongoing study on the options for evolution.

For further details:

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