



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.2.2014
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - EU Space Industrial Policy. Releasing the Potential for Economic Growth in the Space Sector {COM(2013) 108} and the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council, Establishing a Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Programme {COM(2013) 107}.

The Commission appreciates the support of the Senát to the establishment of the EU space industrial policy and the establishment of the Space surveillance and tracking system (SST), as well as its support for the establishment of any appropriate relations with the European Space Agency (ESA).

The Commission wishes to inform the Senát that it has already started to prepare the implementation of measures stemming from the Communication on the EU space industrial policy, based upon a prioritisation exercise undertaken in close cooperation with Member States, ESA and the European space industry representatives. These measures focus notably on the potential improvement of the regulatory framework for the economic development of space products and services, the development of a long term vision of the European space institutional market, the possible improvement of the public procurement regulatory framework by taking into account the space sector specificities, as well as the promotion of the market development for space based applications and services. In this respect, the Commission envisages to propose specific initiatives within the next years.

The Commission also shares the Senát's views as to the need to protect EU space programmes and thanks the Senát for its support regarding the establishment of the Space surveillance and tracking support programme (SST). In particular, the Commission would like to highlight the fact that the budget allocation for SST, as proposed by the Commission, would have very little impact on the financing of the other space programmes. Regarding a possible role of the European GNSS Agency (GSA), in its proposal for an SST Support Programme the Commission, having discussed with the Member States, has taken the

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position that the technical management of the European SST should remain with the Member States owning relevant assets and which will take part in the programme.

The Commission takes note of the views of the Senát on the importance of EU-ESA relations. This issue is the subject of on-going reflections conducted in close cooperation with the Director-General of ESA. Member States will be consulted on the first outcome of these reflections in the appropriate institutional fora in due course.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*