



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018) 4171 final

Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Report on the implementation of the Galileo and EGNOS [European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service] programmes and on the performance of the European GNSS [Global Navigation Satellite System] Agency {COM(2017) 616 final}.

The Galileo and European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service satellite navigation systems, owned by the European Union, are fundamental for both the European economy and security. Positioning and timing signals provided by satellite navigation systems are used in many critical areas of the European economy. Therefore, as stated in the Space Strategy for Europe {COM(2016) 705 final}, the Commission will remain committed to the stability of the European Union space programmes and prepare the new generations, on a user-driven basis, to continue delivering state-of-the-art services.

The Commission report presents the interim evaluation of the Galileo and European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service satellite navigation programmes and the evaluation of the European Global Navigation Satellite System Agency. This evaluation covers the progress made in the European Global Navigation Satellite System programmes from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016. It also aims at verifying how the programmes could respond to new challenges and ambitions related to the priorities outlined in the Space Strategy for Europe {COM(2016) 705 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support to the European Global Navigation Satellite System programmes, as well as to the activities of the Agency working in this field, and it takes note of the Senát's recommendations. The Senát's Opinion and other contributions received will be taken into account when the new proposal establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space programme¹, including Galileo and EGNOS, will be discussed in the near future.

¹ COM(2018) 447 final of 6.6.2018.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*