



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.9.2022*

*C(2022) 6694 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 {COM(2022) 57 final}, as well as the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on an EU approach to Space Traffic Management {JOIN(2022) 4 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senát's support for the aims of both the proposal for a Regulation and the Joint Communication.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Senát shares the view that, considering the increasing hybrid and cyber threat levels and the propensity of natural disasters, the uninterrupted, guaranteed and flexible satellite communication solutions for evolving governmental needs and requirements are strategically important in order to increase the resilience of Member States' and European Union institutions' operations.*

*Moreover, the Commission indeed agrees that, for areas where deployment of broadband-fibre is too expensive, the provision of high-speed broadband and seamless connectivity by means of satellite infrastructure can bridge the digital divide and increase cohesion within the Member States rural, peripheral, remote and isolated areas and islands, as well as in European Union outermost regions; and that the European Union's interests will benefit through the coverage of neighbouring areas of strategic interest.*

*The Commission wishes to confirm that small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups will be strongly involved and benefit from the initiative. They will have, for instance, the opportunity to participate in technological innovation during the development and deployment phases of the programme, and during the subsequent provision of services delivered on a secure and reliable platform.*

*Miloš Vystrčil  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
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*The Commission shares the Senát's view on the potential role of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme, building on the expertise it developed in the past years, and considers the Agency as the most appropriate body to be entrusted with the provision of governmental services and the operational management of the governmental infrastructure.*

*Finally, the Commission believes that space is a global public good of increasing geopolitical importance, and space assets and services are key enablers for Member States economy. Because of their strategic nature, the Commission is thus fully committed to ensuring a safe, sustainable and secure use of space. The Joint Communication on a European Union approach to Space Traffic Management is an urgent and collective step to that end.*

*The Commission would like to reiterate its commitment to achieve the above-mentioned policy objectives raised by the Senát. The Commission looks forward to work together with the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union on making progress on the proposal for the Regulation establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme, for which the trilogues should start in October. We hope that they can be successfully concluded with a political agreement during the Czech Presidency.*

*The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Senát in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton  
Member of the Commission*