



## Satellite Update July 2018

### Proposal for New Regulation on EU Space Programme and EU Agency

#### Proposed Regulation

On 6 June 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a Regulation establishing the [EU Space Programme and the EU Agency for the Space Programme](#). This move builds on previous actions taken by the Commission, namely the 2014 Space Strategy for Europe.

Under this proposed Regulation, the Commission has proposed an increase in its space budget to support the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the European sector. This is an increase from the current €11.1 billion budget to €16 billion from 2021 – 2027 to be split between:

- Satellite navigation: €9.7 billion for the further development and ongoing maintenance of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes;

*Summary: the European commission has suggested the creation of an EU space programme as well as an EU agency for the space programme, in a recently published proposal for a new regulation.*

*It would come into force in early January 2021 and could have potentially large implications for space governance, regulation and policy-making in Europe.*

*The future involvement of ESA and the UK is in question.*

- Earth observation: €5.8 billion for the EU's Earth observation programme, Copernicus; and
- Secure communications: €500 million support satellite communications through the GOVSATCOM initiative.

#### Creation of EU Agency

One of the most notable developments in the proposed Regulation is the creation of the EU

Agency for the Space Programme. This agency would replace the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA). It will bring all of the major EU-led programmes – Galileo, Copernicus, EGNOS and SST – under the control of a single body.

### **Relationship with ESA**

The creation of such an agency of courses raises a question about space governance in Europe, in particular the relationship between the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA). Both organisations collaborate on programmes like Galileo.

ESA is an international intergovernmental organisation and is completely independent of the EU. It has its own space programme, legal foundation, industrial policy and some non-EU Member and Cooperating States such as Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

### **Impact of Brexit**

This development by the Commission comes at a time of negotiation as to the future relationship between the EU and the UK. In 2018, the UK will invest €334.8 million in ESA, making it the fourth largest contributing Member State. The UK has also spent €1.4 billion on the EU's Galileo programme since its inception and 22 of the programme's satellites are already in orbit. The future of the UK's participation in Galileo post-Brexit has not yet been determined.

The proposed Regulation would not come into force until 1 January 2021 and is “presented for a Union of 27 Member States” in light of the

UK's withdrawal from the EU on 29 March 2019. The Regulation is at this stage only a proposal by the Commission, albeit an ambitious one with potentially large implications for space governance, regulation and policy-making in Europe.

In the meantime, the EU's current Member States, including the UK, will have a say as to the scope of this proposal.

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