

Charles Michel, President of the EU Council

He laid out the overall strategy at a particular geopolitical moment for Europe.

Space Action is important in order to reach Europe's strategic objectives:

- Climate and Digital Transition (Carbon emission challenges for the next 3 decades – make Europe the green world leader)
- Mobilized unprecedented means to meet our objectives (Data, Cloud Computing and AI): 1.3 trillion budget for recovery plans and 14.9 billion euros to support space industry
- Europe should become more strategically autonomous, unified action of the 27 European countries is needed (examples are the EU-UK agreement and the agreement of cooperation between EU and China)

Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

He enhanced and reasoned along the above lines.

He also stressed that space creates jobs and markets, and emphasized the disruptive sector of space communications into the quantum era.

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market of the European Commission

He started by mentioning the Covid impact on everything, including space industry, and the resilience shown by the united European Commission.

He stressed that this year will be the year of Trust.

He outlined the progress achieved last year for Space Policy in Europe:

- Important budget (almost 15 billion euros, the largest budget ever at EU level for space and the investment in ESA and by Member States.
- Agreement in EU Space program for Europe,
- EU space policy will continue to rely on ESA, the Agency will stay by the side of EU

The European Space Strategy relies on 4 points:

- Consolidating Galileo and Copernicus, best established infrastructures in the world, and their evolution towards the launch of the 2d generation (2024) satellites and missions
- Develop a space-based connectivity initiative beside G and C initiative. The Commission will put a concrete proposal to the Parliament to advance fast. This is not a business as usual space project, it is broader, relies on industry for various sectors, necessitates resourcefulness, mobilization of various resources, including public and private sector, create synergies with existing infrastructure
- Develop and maintain strategic autonomy in space reducing critical dependences on 3d countries (e.g. launchers is a very important aspect related to autonomous access to space, also various operations in space, or space debris-space surveillance tracking policy)
- Space should be The Hub for entrepreneurship in Europe; a new initiative to be launched this year called Cassini (innovation, business ideas, industrialization, stimulate investments in space technologies/solutions, European space incubator)

2021 will be the defining year of European Space Strategy.

Sophie Wilmes, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Federal Cultural Institutions, Belgium

She stressed the:

- Impact of space in our daily lives and many societal sectors
- Space sector is a critical enabler for the recovery from the pandemic
- Space has a direct positive impact on employment

She also outlined Belgium's contributions to the space-related European objectives and stressed that a common European approach is essential.

Jan Woerner, ESA

The main takeaways of his position talk:

- Competition is a driver, cooperation is the enabler
- There are 3 addressees: society, economy, environment
- ESA's partnering with the EU
- 4 programmatic pillars: science and exploration, safety and security, applications, enabling and support.
- Covid global challenge and climate change challenges are both addressed through and by space: discovery, monitoring, raising awareness,
- Looking into the future: Copernicus, EGNOS, secure connectivity (Quantum, Cloud, AI)
- Digital Space initiatives and New Space initiative
- Hazards in Space

Panel Discussion:

A Changing World: a look at European space

Timo Pesonen, Director-General, DG Defence Industry and Space, European Commission
Roberto Viola, Director-General, DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
Josef Aschbacher, Director-General elect, European Space Agency
André-Hubert Roussel, President, Eurospace
Aarti Holla Maini, Secretary-General, ESOA

Timo Pesonen:

Year of deciding the budget – how will it be spent in space?

Priorities are:

- Consolidation and upgrading of existing programs (Galileo & Copernicus)
- Launchers and access to space
- Support start-ups and scale-ups (Cassini initiative)
- New approaches (secure connectivity, etc)

Roberto Viola:

- New developments expected in the future, as the pandemic changed the world and this forced to leverage on connectivity and digital. There was an unprecedented political response to the challenge: 20% of recovery resources will go to the digital.

- He outlined the existing resources, technology and know-how in Europe, but he also stressed that Europe is weak in entrepreneurship spirit and drive.
- The quantum revolution is based on European forefront research; quantum's role in secure communication, quantum computing for data from space, in navigation, in space research

Josef Aschbacher:

He developed on the above points and further mentioned about:

- Preparing the ESA Agenda with the vision for the future
- Next generation Sentinels (with Copernicus as the gold standard) and expansion Sentinels

André-Hubert Roussel

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Aarti Holla Maini:

She mentioned among others the changes of the Digital Ecosystem and that at the forefront should be the constellation program of communication satellites. She stressed the need for Europe to dominate; implementation will be the challenge, Europe needs a speedy start, leveraging its existing infrastructure and competitiveness in technical performance and cost, leveraging also the European knowledge and experience.

Luigi Pasquali, CEO, Telespazio

Telespazio's 60 anniversary

He stressed the legacy of Telespazio and its importance for today's EU challenges: sustainability, digitalization, resilience.

Panel Discussion: Space supporting the digital transition: from Quantum to AI

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal Hervé Derrey, CEO, Thales Alenia Space Marco Fuchs, CEO, OHB Steve Collar, CEO, SES Pierre Bahurel, CEO, Mercator Océan

Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education

He started his speech focusing on the importance of public and private funding's. The Space technology is the only area that could create new jobs. It's time for action. Governments and Businesses need to strengthen their cooperation.

Hervé Derrey, CEO, Thales Alenia Space

Key points: Digital trust (secure data), Space technology provides global communication and extensive range of data sources. Microsoft teams up with SpaceX to launch Azure Space to bring cloud computing into the final frontier.

Marco Fuchs, CEO, OHB

How protecting the data? Connectivity initiative, speed of the implementation of new projects, European independence, quick decision making

Steve Collar, CEO, SES

SES has driven open networking initiatives as well as partnerships with cloud service providers into the satellite industry, advancing its vision to make satellite networks a seamless extension of the global communications ecosystem, becoming the first satellite network solutions provider to adopt an Open Network Automation Platform.

Satellites (Super Power) and Security (Super Power)

Balance the needs of private sector and EU

Connecting us all: How satellites remade the world

Pierre Bahurel, CEO, Mercator Océan

Blue Economy can create 40million jobs

Copernicus made the difference in Digital Ocean, Special Tribute to EC, Space and Digital Transmission come together, Green Deal is the framework for new instruments (Ocean Climate Biodiversity)

Panel Discussion: Cleaning up our orbits: accelerating the move to remove space debris

Ekaterini Kavvada, Director Development and Innovation, DG Defence Industry and Space, European Commission Rolf Densing, Director of Operations, ESA Niklas Hedman, Chief of Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section (CPLA), UNOOSA Jorge Potti, General Manager, GMV Aerospace Luca Rossettini, CEO, D-Orbit

Ekaterini Kavvada, Director Development and Innovation, DG Defence Industry and Space, European Commission

Space debris: New island of plastics (need for space sustainability), 5000 satellites in space and only 2000 are functional, EU stands: protect from harm, preservation and clean environment.

Member States + ESA + EC act collectively, foster coordination

Safety + Security in Space are main priorities

Rolf Densing, Director of Operations, ESA

Infrastructure needed

In the year 2030 more than 10.000 satellites will be in Space

50% of spacecrafts returned to earth (rest remain in Space orbit).

International Negotiations Tables (EU count 30members)

Fragmented Strategy

ESA is not a regulatory Authority

Jorge Potti, General Manager, GMV Aerospace

Space Traffic Management

GMV Aerospace Luca Rossettini, CEO, D-Orbit

Commercial Satellite Operators can do more if we have a space debris removal

Panel Discussion: European New Space: How to do innovative and competitive space business on the Old Continent?

Alain Godard, Chief Executive, European Investment Fund Eric Morel de Westgaver, Director of Industry, Procurement and Legal Services, ESA Ricardo Conde, President, PT Space Sabine Klauke, Head of Engineering, Airbus Defence and Space Morena Bernardini, Vice-President for Strategy, ArianeGroup

Sabine Klauke, Head of Engineering, Airbus Defence and Space

She was focused on Digitization, Self-Investments and Research Partnerships

Alain Godard, Chief Executive, European Investment Fund

Support competitiveness for Space, in Space area there is a market gap, Space industry objective is to develop strong cooperation with EC, 100million euros capital funds were already deployed by SMEs and Corporate partners

Morena Bernardini, Vice-President for Strategy, ArianeGroup

No autonomous access – No European access to Space

Eric Morel de Westgaver, Director of Industry, Procurement and Legal Services

Barriers for National capacities, Platform for easy access to credit, Long Term Investments

ESA Ricardo Conde, President, PT Space

Leverage capabilities in Space

2020 – National Programme for Space in Portugal

Portugal launched some new initiatives for Space

Climate Data, Models, Data Policy challenges to tackle

Panel Discussion: African and European space business at the service of the great societal challenges

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission
Cécile Thomas-Courcoux, International Development & Cooperation Director, Mercator Océan
Philippe Glaesener, SVP, Corporate Development, SES
Oluseye Soyode-Johnson, Board Member, GEN Space Africa
Christophe Mutabazi, CTO, DMM HeHe

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

Africa + Europe promises huge potentials (boost Africa private sector competitiveness, creating a strong connection with European market)
Forecast natural disasters, protect the environment
Space Data is the key element for innovative solutions for SMEs

Oluseye Soyode-Johnson, Board Member, GEN Space Africa

Key Market Demands (Telecom, Security, Connectivity, Earth Observation Data, Agriculture, Risk Services, Deforestation, Property Data Base)
Especially in Agriculture sector the space technology can have a positive impact on local lives (What to harvest? Where?)
Obstacles: Access key Space data, Utilisation Satellites Observation Data
Challenges : Build up policy, Share resources and knowledge, Build Capacity, more collaboration, Consortiums

Glaesener, SVP, Corporate Development

Many opportunities for Digitalization, Connectivity
Key elements for Satellite Connectivity (Inter-Connectivity, Security, Education, Health)
Private Public Procurement
Satellite Technology is not the key for everything (we need more infrastructures)
Money and further partnerships (Regional partners, Gathering Data, Distributing Data) especially in urban areas in Africa as people lacking knowledge
Legal Regulatory Framework Improvements
Any Digital development in Europe can be exported to Africa

Cécile Thomas-Courcoux, International Development & Cooperation Director, Mercator Océan

Ocean Forecasting Systems
Ocean expertise (Technical Support for locals)
Mobile Applications for fishermen
Costal Management Systems
Providing Training to locals help us also to update our skills

Cross networks (EU Investments, creating jobs, revenues)

70%-80% of the population cannot afford EO based services unless they are provided through cell phones

Panel Discussion: Building Digital Twin Earths For a Resilient Society

Sirpa Pietikainen, Member of the European Parliament Roberto Viola, Director-General, DG CONNECT, European Commission Josef Aschbacher, Director-General elect & Director of Earth Observation Programmes, European Space Agency Matthias Petschke, Director, DG DEFIS, European Commission Prof. Martin Visbeck, Head of the Physical Oceanography research unit, Geomar Dr. Nuria Oliver, Chief Scientific Adviser, Vodafone INstitute for Society and Communication

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She focused on lacking of talents in Europe (Juniors, Seniors)

Europe has an artificial-intelligence skills shortage. Most of the researchers working out of Europe or for foreigner companies in Europe.

In order to attract new talents they created the Pan European Research Program, EU + Israel cooperation excellence program and a Pan European PhD program