

# Concept note: 2<sup>nd</sup> ESA Security Conference

## Brussels, May 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2023



Dear Madam/Sir,

You are cordially invited to attend the 2nd ESA Security Conference to be held on 16 and 17 May 2023 in Brussels, which I will have the honour of chairing.

It is well demonstrated how space assets have become an integral, fundamental pillar of strategic decision-making and of modern security operations. Recent regional events have shown how significantly the security environment and the role of space have evolved, prompting European actors to adapt and update their security strategies and contributions. The EU's Strategic Compass and the actions that go with it are testament to this new, essential dynamic affecting every European space and security actor.

When it comes to its own proposals and activities, ESA's governance and its contribution to European security is defined by its Convention and by its Member States, which have increasingly engaged in security matters, as exemplified by the decisions taken at ESA's November 2022 Council meeting at ministerial level pertaining to Space Safety, ESA's elements related to Secure Connectivity, cybersecurity and civil security from space. ESA has been as well fully committed to its Copernicus contribution and to implementing Galileo on behalf of the EU. Moreover, security is a wide-ranging notion beyond the classical security remit, and ESA has thus been actively partnering with national and global actors alike in fighting climate change, through its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, or through its dialogue with international judicial actors such as the International Criminal Court, to name but a few.

Through this complex and holistic dynamic, ESA's R&D contribution is and will remain complementary to national efforts, investments, and leadership.

The 2nd ESA Security Conference will thus explore how to make ESA activities and expertise more readily available to its stakeholders, while also engaging with how it can further contribute both to Europe's welfare and to international peace and security through its programmes, policies and partnerships. With these aims in mind, the event will bring together stakeholders from politics, industry and research, as well as users of space services who will, together, discuss how the Agency should move forward in terms of shaping its space security approach and apparatus. In particular, the event will explore the needs of the security community, as well as processes, whether institutional or industrial, and the performance of tomorrow's systems. Themes underpinning these discussions will include:

- The current major strategic shifts affecting Europe's policy priorities and capability contributions to international peace and security;
- Guaranteeing Europe's ability to decide and act, exploring current and future programme contributions in Europe, whether public or private, national or multilateral and industrial solutions;
- Increasing and prioritising R&D in space-based security capabilities and services;
- Safeguarding the resilience of space systems, including supply-side challenges to avoid dependencies, standardisation, R&D and cyber security;
- Security partnerships within and outside of Europe.

This event will build on the success of the 1st ESA Security Conference held in Frascati, Italy, on 4–5 November 2021, which unquestionably demonstrated that security actors are eager to make greater use of space and showed the relevance of developing federated solutions to interconnect space-based systems, ground systems and services. Such comprehensive solutions allow security actors to gather, process and provide information in near-real time to facilitate decision-making and enable quicker action for the benefit of Europe's citizens.

This is a personal invitation to the event. Please be so kind as to save the date. **More information as well as registration details will follow shortly.**

Yours sincerely,  
Josef Aschbacher  
ESA DG

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