

PERSPECTIVES

Sep 23

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ESPI WITH 40 NATIONS AND A POLICY VISION FOR EUROPE FOR 2040



September was a pivotal month for ESPI. We celebrated **ESPI's 20th Anniversary** and launched our policy vision for Europe: **ESPI2040 Space for Prosperity, Peace and Future Generations**. ESPI, the European Think Tank for Space, was founded in 2003 by ESA and the Austrian Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG). On September 25th, our Anniversary Event took place in the Austrian Parliament, in synergy with the Plenary Session of the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC), whose **Secretariat is operated by ESPI**. The high-level event brought together more than 150 European and international leaders from policy and space from 40 nations, ranging from governmental representatives, parliamentarians, ambassadors, executives of international organisations, 15 heads of national space agencies, and industry, to international guests from ISRO, JAXA, KARI and NASA.

The opening statements were delivered by Leonore Gewessler, Austria's Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and Josef Aschbacher, DG of ESA, a roundtable on European space policy moderated by Andreas Geisler from FFG and Chair of ESPI General Assembly, with Timo Pesonen, DG at EC's DG DEFIS, Anna Christmann, Federal Government Coordinator for Aerospace, Frank Monteny, Director of General Research and Space at BELSPO, Eric Morel de Westgaver, Director of European, Legal and International Matters at ESA, Riadh Cammoun, VP of Institutional Affairs at Thales Alenia Space, and Geneviève Fioraso, ESPI Advisory Council Chair and Former French Minister for Higher Education and Research. Subsequent a panel discussion on international perspectives included Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of UNOOSA, Ikuko Kuriyama, Advisory at JAXA and Stefan Mair, Director of SWP Berlin. We had the pleasure to sign a number of agreements with **ESA**, the **Italian Space Agency** and Spanish Space Agency and welcomed 4 new members - the Luxembourg Space Agency, Portuguese Space Agency, Beyond Gravity and Exolaunch. Moreover, we agreed to reinforce international cooperation with JAXA, KARI, and SGAC, and announced the establishment of the ESPI Centre of Excellence for Space and Sustainability in cooperation with the Austrian BMK. Concluding remarks were provided by Henriette Spyra, DG Innovation & Technology, Austrian BMK, and Karin Tausz, Managing Director of FFG.

The ESPI2040 policy vision, featured in statements of Etienne Schneider, incoming Chair of ESPI Advisory Council (AC) and former Deputy PM of Luxembourg, and Samantha Cristoforetti, European Astronaut and Member of ESPI AC advocates for a strong Europe as a partner to the world. It emphasises the policy impact of space, proposing measurable goals for 2040 and calling on European policy makers and institutions, industries, start-ups, finance, academia, and scientific communities to engage in an open debate, agree on common goals and translate them into programmes delivering tangible results. In particular, ESPI2040 calls upon Europe to voice a clear political will and implement policy action on 3 levels: Policy Impact, Space Capability and Autonomy, and Foundation. With a growing team of more than 20 experts, ESPI supports ESPI2040 in European and international engagement along 5 lines of research "Green and Sustainable Societies", "Security & Defence", "Exploration & Science", "Space as an Asset" and "Industry, Innovation, Finance, Workforce".



Europe has the capabilities, foundations, and prerequisites to develop into a full space power – as outlined in our **ESPI Executive Brief "Europe as a Space Power"** (based on the **Book "Power, State and Space"**). Finding itself at a unique inflection point, Europe cannot miss the opportunities afforded by space. As also outlined during the ESPI2040 launch, there are two missing elements - human spaceflight & exploration, and security & defence – required for Europe to develop into a space power. In support to this development, ESPI will continue to provide an active forum for the analysis and discussion of Europe's needs, capabilities, and long-term prospects in space. ESPI2040 will be developed further, together with our members and in consultations with other European stakeholders and international partners.

Yours sincerely,



Hermann Ludwig Moeller
Director of ESPI