

ESPI Vienna Space Diplomat

1st ESPI VSD newsletter



I am pleased to provide you with the first edition of the ESPI VSD newsletter, published at the occasion of the ESPI 20th anniversary event and the issue of ESPI2040, a vision for Europe in space by 2040.

The newsletter follows the creation of the VSD, announced by ESPI at the spring 2023 COPUOS meeting as a pioneering engagement framework facilitated by ESPI for the diplomatic community in Vienna. It is recalled here that the VSD comprises three distinct elements, the Annual Reception, the ESPI hosted COPUOS side events and the VSD Forum, together with the possibility for specific events in support to individual VSD members upon request.

EXCELLENT START AT THE 1ST VSD RECEPTION

During the first Annual Reception on July 14th, Luxembourg's Ambassador, Jean Graff, received the VSD community at his residency and emphasised the growing importance of space policy and diplomacy. He underlined the value of the VSD and ESPI to provide a dynamic forum promoting European space policy globally and offering support and expertise to the VSD community in space-policy matters.

More than 40 representatives of Permanent Missions and from International Organisations attended the event. At the reception, ESPI was honoured to introduce former Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Etienne Schneider, as incoming Chair of ESPI's Advisory Council. Mr. Schneider delivered a compelling keynote on the significance of investing in space and the vital role smaller nations can have in the era of space commercialisation. This speech sparked a lively exchange among the VSD members, putting into practice what ESPI seeks to reinforce, to help shape the dialogue on space policy and diplomacy on a European and international level.



Newsletter Highlights

An Excellent Start at the Inaugural Reception

Next VSD Engagements

ESPI 20th Anniversary





ESPI is commemorating its 20th anniversary on September 25th at the Austrian Parliament, in the presence of Minister Gewessler, parliamentarians from 9 European states, heads of space agencies including the DG of ESA, international partners, representatives of the UN and the Vienna diplomatic community and industry representatives. In this event, ESPI will announce its vision: ESPI2040 - Space for Prosperity, Peace and Future Generations. ESPI2040 outlines how space can provide solutions to respond to the unprecedented challenges Europe and the world are facing. It proposes goals for Europe in 2040, and the ESPI Agenda to support this vision in fields of green & sustainability, security & defence and exploration & science. ESPI2040 emphasises the policy impact of space. It promotes continuous dialogue, engagement and collaboration with stakeholders in and outside Europe. ESPI2040 will be developed further, including in dialogue with international partners. The VSD is considered an element which can facilitate such dialogue. (Download at: <https://www.espi.or.at/espi-2040/>)

NEXT VSD ENGAGEMENTS

Starting on 1st January 2024, ESPI will relocate its offices to Schwarzenbergerplatz 6. We warmly invite all VSD members to the inaugural VSD forum scheduled for January 2024 at a date still to be announced. The event will commence with a focused discussion on space weather, a topic of prime significance also on COPUOS' agenda. An initial topical address will be provided by an ESPI researcher, followed by a Q&A with the ESPI team and discussion among participants and a networking reception.

Moreover, we are pleased to announce that the 2nd VSD Summer Reception will be held jointly with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland, which have generously extended an offer to host this event, slated during the first two weeks of June 2024. The specific date is still to be confirmed.

Moreover, we intend to continue our tradition of hosting evening side events during the STSC. These dates will be communicated as soon as possible.



H. Ludwig Moeller
Director of ESPI

VSD event calendar

Events organised by ESPI 2023 - 2024

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>► 14 July: First Vienna Space Diplomat Annual reception</p>		<p>► 25 SEP: ESPI 20th Anniversary event, Vienna (Austrian Parliament), Austria</p>	<p>► 24-25 OCT: ESPI Autumn Conference, Vienna, Austria</p>		
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>► TBD: 1st VSD Forum, Dialogues on Space Weather</p> <p>► TBD: COPUOS Side Events.</p>			<p>► TBD: COPUOS Side Event.</p>		<p>► 13 JUN: 2nd Summer Reception. Coorganised with the Swiss Permanent Mission.</p> <p>► TBD: COPUOS side Events.</p>