

ESPI Vienna Space Diplomat

2nd ESPI VSD newsletter



I am delighted to present the second edition of the ESPI VSD newsletter, arriving just in time to mark the festive season and the close of an eventful year. As we approach the end of 2023, we extend our warmest season's greetings to the growing VSD community, with over 60 different nationalities participating in our 2023 events.

As we prepare to welcome 2024, ESPI remains committed to advancing the VSD initiative. The upcoming year promises to be even more dynamic, with a variety of events planned and an enhanced focus on space diplomacy. Our aim is to foster deeper engagement and collaboration among the diplomatic community and strengthen the role of space in addressing global challenges through dialogue and research.

ESPI 20th Anniversary: an example of space diplomacy

On 25 September, ESPI celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the Austrian Parliament with guests from over 40 countries including government and industry leaders, executives of international organisations, heads of space agencies, ambassadors, parliamentarians, members of the VSD community and representatives from NASA, JAXA, ISRO, and KARI. The event featured opening remarks from key figures including Austria's Federal Minister Leonore Gewessler, and ESA's Director General Josef Aschbacher followed by a roundtable on European space policy and a panel offering international perspectives on space cooperation.

The highlight was the launch of ESPI's policy vision for Europe in space "ESPI2040: Space for Prosperity, Peace, and Future Generations", with contributions from Etienne Schneider, former Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg, and European astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti. Announcements included new ESPI members and agreements, international cooperation initiatives, and the establishment of the ESPI Centre of Excellence for Space and Sustainability.



Newsletter Highlights

ESPI's 20th Anniversary

VSD Side events:
JAN 30th & FEB 5th 2024

1st VSD Forum:
MAR 6th 2024





Facilitating dialogue on the importance of addressing space weather

I would also like to extend an invitation to all VSD members for the inaugural **VSD forum**, set for **March 6th, 2024**. This forum will open with an in-depth discussion on space weather, an often-overlooked issue of critical importance for our society. The session will begin with a Fireside Chat by an ESPI expert and a guest speaker, followed by an interactive Q&A session. This will be followed by a networking reception, offering an open platform for engagement.

NEXT VSD ENGAGEMENTS

In the new year, ESPI will move to its new headquarters in Vienna's first district at Schwarzenbergerplatz 16. We are thrilled to invite all VSD members to the well-established VSD side events during COPUOS, and future VSD events at these new premises.

Addressing space debris for a safe and sustainable future of humankind's presence in space

The first side event, "The **IADC at 30** – Future work of the Committee in light of preserving the space environment," is scheduled for **January 30th**. **Co-organised with UKSA and the IADC**, this event celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, spotlighting its pivotal role in the preservation of the space environment.

Fostering the importance of Earth Observation

Our second side event, slated for February 5th, promises to be equally engaging. Titled "The Strategic Value of Earth Observation: Maximising Benefits for Governments and International Community," this joint ESPI-ISPRS event will feature a moderated panel discussion, offering insights into the expansive impact of Earth Observation technologies.

Save-the-date for the next VSD Summer Reception

Additionally, we are pleased to remind you that the **2nd VSD Summer Reception, co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland**, is scheduled for **June 13th**. We are grateful for their generous offer to host this event, which promises to be a memorable occasion for all participants.

Through all these initiatives and events, the VSD strives to foster a closer-knit diplomatic community in Vienna, bridging various stakeholders in the space sector and stimulating a dynamic platform for collaboration and mutual understanding.

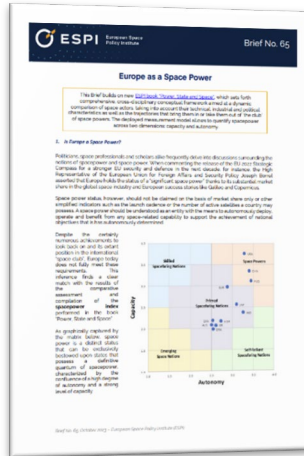



Ludwig Moeller
Director of ESPI

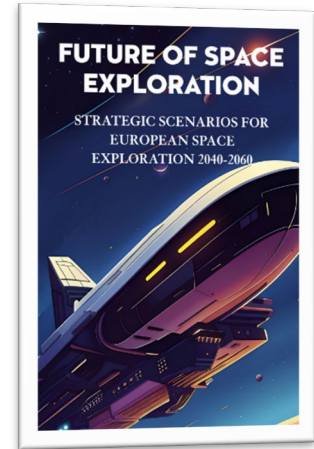
Selected ESPI publications to the attention of the VSD community



[Space Spectrum Management.](#)



[Europe as a Space Power](#)



[Future of Space Exploration](#)



[Space Safety and Sustainability](#)



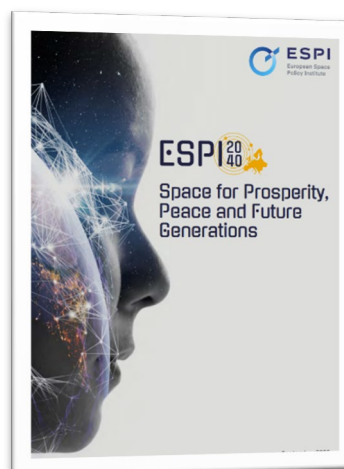
[EU Space Policy and the Involvement of](#)



[More than a Space Programme](#)



[ESPI Insights](#)



[ESPI 2040](#)



[ESPI Perspectives](#)

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>▶ 30 JAN: ESPI/ IADC STSC Side Events.</p>	<p>▶ 5 FEB: ESPI/ISPRS STSC Side Events.</p>	<p>▶ 6 MAR: 1st VSD Forum, Dialogues on Space Weather.</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>