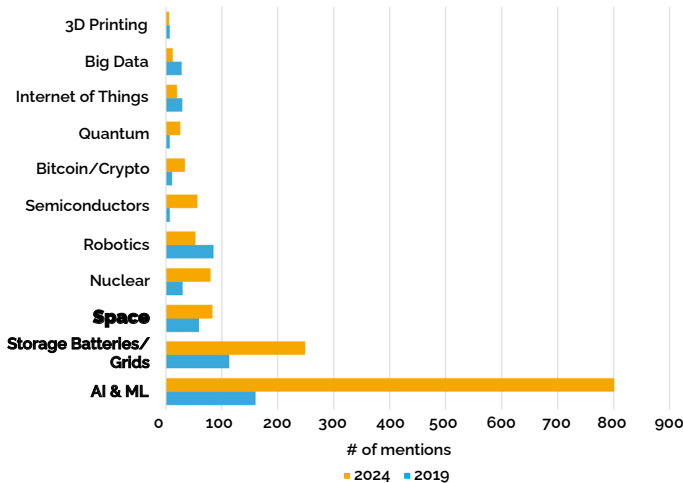


"L'EUROPE PUISSANCE": SPACE ONE OF FIVE EMERGING STRATEGIC SECTORS

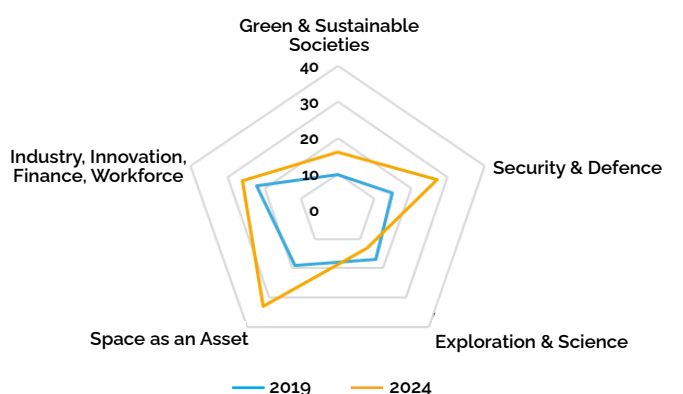
They have become a rarity, the speeches by elected leaders of nations for an ambitious Europe. Few are the politicians that would clearly link the destiny of Europe to its ability to be a **power of innovation, research, and production**. Few would identify space as one of five emerging strategic sectors, next to AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, and energy. Few would link it to the need to **strengthen Europe's industry**.

The "Discours sur l'Europe" delivered by President Macron in April at the Sorbonne was a rare moment, elevating space and the power of innovation it can bring, at highest political level. It calls to scale up Europe's efforts for greater **technological and industrial sovereignty**. It sets an ambitious target of investing 3% of the European GDP into research and calls for a **Europe with ambition for space**, including NewSpace and human space mission. The 0.15% GDP target for space, as advocated by **ESPI2040**, appears modest in comparison, yet it calls for a doubling of today's investment.

President Macron is not alone. Looking towards the European Parliament elections, space now takes 3rd place in the policy manifestos, as seen in ESPI's latest **report on the European Parliament elections**, ahead of semiconductors or Quantum.



The security & defence dimension of space has reached a yet unseen recognition in these policy programmes. The industrial dimension however is still undervalued.



This resonates also in the **declaration by Eurospace**, following the EU-ESA space council in May, regretting that current challenges are not seriously addressed and calling for 'a coherent European-wide industrial strategy for space'.

In the USA, politicians have long understood the role of space as a strategic priority at highest level. The Vice President chairs the National Space Council that includes, e.g. the Secretary of State, Defence, Homeland Security, Commerce, Transportation, providing advice on US space policy and strategy.

It synchronises civil, commercial, and national security space activities, and is supported by an Advisory Committee, including industry representatives. Europe does not possess such institutional structure and space policy and strategy are defined by multiple actors. It relies on the coordination between different European and national actors. This is also reflected by the Council of the EU Conclusions on 'strengthening Europe's competitiveness through space', which highlights the importance of several areas of EU socio-economic challenges and policies.

The Council of the EU Conclusions highlight "the importance to reinforce the ESA-EU strategic partnership" and propose **"reinforce coordination for the development of the overall European Space Policy"**

In support to this, Europe would benefit from an open platform of debate – spanning across the competences of the EU, ESA, and their Member States - at the highest political level, for advancing a coherent public policy direction for the development of space in Europe,

- in support to a competitive, innovative space industry; and
- as key enabler of sectors like green & sustainability, energy, security, mobility and agriculture.

A joint understanding among leaders from governments, parliaments, public bodies, industry (space and non-space) and finance is a prerequisite to adequately address the role of space in Europe's competitiveness and security.

Only then can Europe position itself as a strong partner in global developments, lead with purpose, and leverage this strength to Uphold European Values. Within its mandate, ESPI could facilitate such development with recommendations and proposals on space policy matters, and by supporting an open platform of debate across institutional and industrial boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

Hermann Ludwig Moeller
Director of ESPI

