

The New Bundestag - Germany's role in space in Europe



SPACE AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE

Organised by ESPI, in cooperation with the German Space Agency at DLR



PARTNERS:



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Looking to the Future

The highlights from the first ESPI Media Roundtable included Europe's need to diversify and strengthen international cooperation, Europe's need to scale up investments, and the role of Germany through the lens of an increasingly empowered space governance. The need for a future-oriented approach was underlined, considering sovereignty requirements as well as the integration of commercial dynamics. The Roundtable also called for space and defence industries to strengthen cooperation and concluded with a call to raise public awareness of the benefits of space to society and as part of the digital economy of the future.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The new Bundestag -
Germany's role in space in Europe

1 Europe needs to reduce dependencies and strengthen international cooperation

- Europe needs to diversify and strengthen international cooperation with other middle powers in space, in particular with Japan, South Korea and India, and reduce dependencies on the US.

2 Europe and Germany to significantly increase investment in space

- Europe needs to scale up investments to remain a relevant cooperation partner and become a space power (including doubling public investment from the current €14B: from 0,07% to 0,15% of GDP)
- The role of Germany next to France is crucial for Europe.
- Germany needs to be in a leading role by investing in the national programme and ESA programmes. Germany needs to increase its contribution to ESA CM25 up to €6B (for 2026 – 2028) and increase the national space budget up to €500M per year from 2026.
- A future-oriented approach needs to be emphasized for ESA CM25 under German leadership, to pave the way for 2040.

3 Germany to empower its space governance

- Germany needs to empower its space governance to be positioned at the level of a state secretary, linking all (user) ministries, similar to the US National Space Council.

4 Use of space for security and defence

- Europe needs to realise the strategic benefits of space for sovereignty and needs to better leverage dual use and civil-military synergies.
- Europe needs to continue work on a commercial integration strategy – in line with the ongoing efforts in NATO and for Europe.
- Space and defence companies need to further strengthen cooperation with the space sector to deliver space data and services for armed forces, linking and integrating space with ground infrastructure and services, and to apply their serial production capabilities also to space.

5 Strategic role of space data and services for the wider industry

- Germany needs the full value of space data and downstream services as part of a digital economy – for security & defence and for the wider economy and industry sectors such as automotive.
- Germany needs to raise public awareness of the benefit of space for the wider economy and of the use of space in daily life.

