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Brussels, Friday, 6 June 2025

President VON DER LEYEN,

*High Representative KALLAS,
Executive Vice-President VIRKKUNEN,
Commissioner KUBILIUS,
Commissioner SERAFIN,*

We are writing to express our **serious concerns regarding the future of the European Space Programme**, including IRIS², within the framework of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Recent signals — particularly the creation of a broad European Competitiveness Fund encompassing a wide variety of programmes — are a source of deep concern.

European satellites and space services are not just technical tools: they constitute **a strategic infrastructure, indispensable for the implementation of all Union policies**. From satellite imagery supporting farmers facing soil drought, to positioning capabilities for military operations, and secure communications for our governments, European space assets are an operational pillar of our sovereignty.

This sector relies on long investment cycles, world-class industrial and technological expertise, and requires a long-term strategic vision. It cannot afford dilution or fragmentation. **Moreover, preserving the regulatory acquis that enables clear and effective governance — particularly in relations with space agencies — is essential.**

Merging space into a generic competitiveness fund and Regulation, not tailored to the specificities of space actions and its ecosystem, **would go against everything that has made Europe's space policy a success.**

We therefore make three clear requests:

1. **A standalone European Space Programme**, as provided for in the Treaties, with a clearly ring-fenced budget of at least €60 billion for the next period. Long-term visibility is critical for industrial stability, including for each component of the space programme.
2. **Eligibility rules reflecting the strategic importance of space sovereignty**, including the possibility to tailor participation in budget implementation in order to safeguard the Union's strategic interests — going beyond the default provisions of the Financial Regulation and encouraging home-grown solutions.
3. **A dedicated work programme and programme committee for space**, to ensure the effective implementation of an ambitious space policy, with fit-for-purpose governance at both technical and strategic levels

In addition, we strongly invite you to consider **integrating a space pillar within an Internal Market Facility under the forthcoming MFF**. This Facility would build on the experience of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and pursue the objective of developing infrastructure to strengthen macroeconomic conditions within the Internal Market. It could include dedicated envelopes for infrastructure in the fields of energy, digital, transport, and space.

Such an approach would be fully consistent with the nature of space as sovereign infrastructure and would acknowledge its role as a driver of macroeconomic growth across the Union. Funding for space activities under the Space Programme, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and the Internal Market Facility should be well coordinated, with dedicated access to risk finance through InvestEU as well.

The European space policy is a success story. It must not have its wings clipped by ill-suited budgetary structures. **We count on your personal commitment to ensure that it remains a driver of autonomy, innovation, and strength for the Union** — and that we move fast and with sufficient resources.

Yours sincerely,

Christophe GRUDLER

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