

COVID-19 and the European Space Sector

The European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC):

RECOGNISING that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted European economies, and that it has also taken a toll on the European space sector, whether through the impact on labour, operations and business or through its wider macroeconomic implications;

UNDERLINES the vital importance of a strong space sector for European strategic autonomy and ENCOURAGES further measures to ensure Europe remains a leading international actor in space by adopting a strong, coordinated and inclusive European framework for cooperation and competitiveness;

WELCOMES the current momentum in digitalising Europe with the help of space data and technology, which should be taken full advantage of towards developing and improving innovative public and private services in a more digital society, providing services to citizens and ensuring good governance;

EMPHASISING the important role of space-based Earth observation, navigation and communication services in the process of crisis monitoring, crisis response and mitigation of crisis effects on economies and societies;

UNDERLINING the valuable contribution of a strong European space sector and space-based services to the further development of a sustainable and digital European economy in the recovery from the pandemic;

EMPHASISES the necessity to take leadership to develop and sustain effective means to support the European space research and industry, both in the upstream and downstream sector, through and after the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure continuous competitiveness and prevent the loss of critical capabilities.