

Proposal on EU Space Act in process

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Background 1/2



- *Space Strategy for Security and Defence (SSSD)* was published in 03/2023 mentioning that the EU Commission will consider proposing an EU Space Law
- National position on the SSSD strategy formed in Finland, incl. the following:

Finland considers objectives and measures aiming at space safety and sustainable space activities important, but has reservations about an initiative that would be implemented through EU legislation that aims at harmonization or approximation of Member States' legislation.

- Initial reservations based on
 - Restrictions concerning EU's competence with regard to space (Art. 4(3) ja 189 TFEU); and
 - Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government, incl. clear division of competences between the Union and the Member States (s. 188)



Background 2/2

- The Commission launched the EU Space Law initiative in September 2023
 - incl. online questionnaire for stakeholders
- Consultation event on the initiative in Finland on 25 October 2023
 - Preliminary views from the Finnish space sector
- Expressing preliminary views while waiting for the proposal:
 - Non-paper by Finland 01/2024
 - Non-paper by Finland and Sweden 03/2025
 - Non-papers etc. also from other EU Member States
- Proposal on EU Space Act published on 25 June 2025

EU Space Act: What and why?



- EU Member States have national space laws to fulfill their international obligations (UN Space Treaties)
- According to the Commission, fragmentation of national space laws could adversely impact the provision of space services/data in the Union
 - Harmonized legal framework to the rescue
- Legal basis Art. 114 TFEU regarding approximation of laws for the functioning of the internal market
 - Harmonization of technical requirements of space activities (safety, resilience, environmental sustainability)
 - Harmonization of authorization and supervision of space activities in the Union

EU Space Act: 7 TITLES (Art. 1–119) + Annexes (10)



- TITLE I: General provisions
- TITLE II: Authorisation and registration for space activities
- TITLE III: Governance aspects
- TITLE IV: Technical requirements
- TITLE V: Equivalence decisions, international agreements and rules for international organisations
- TITLE VI: Supporting measures
- TITLE VII: Transitional and final provisions



TITLE I: General provisions

E.g. scope:

EU Space Act **applies** to the following space services providers:

- (a) space operators;
- (b) collision avoidance space services providers;
- (c) primary providers of space-based data;
- (d) international organisations.

EU Space Act **does not apply to:**

- (a) space objects exclusively used for defence or national security purposes;
- (b) the authorisation or management of radio spectrum;
- (c) assets launched before 1 January 2030.

TITLE II + III: Authorisation and registration for space activities + Governance aspects



- In order to provide space services/data in the Union, one must be registered to Union Space Object Register (URSO)
 - + e-certificate proving compliance with the EU Space Act
- Union space operators authorized and supervised by national authorities
 - + Technical assessment by qualified technical body assigned by the Member State
- Union space operators of Union-owned assets authorized and supervised by the Commission
 - + Technical assessment by EUSPA
- Third country operators and international organizations should get to URSO through the Commission (and EUSPA)

TITLE IV: Technical requirements



1) SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN SPACE

- E.g. Collision avoidance, risk of casualties, prevention of space debris...

2) RESILIENCE

- EU Space Act as “lex specialis” to NIS2 directive
- Cyber security measures include e.g. risk assessment and management throughout the life cycle of space missions, cryptography and encryption...

3) ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Calculation and verification of environmental footprint of space activities...

TITLE V: Equivalence decisions, international agreements and rules for international organisations



- URSO includes the operators accepted to the internal market
- The way to URSO from a third country or for an international organization:
 - Third country operators to URSO through decisions by the Commission
 - Individual operator may go through the technical assessment by EUSPA -> compliance with EU Space Act? -> URSO (decision by the Commission)
 - OR
 - Equivalence decision by the Commission stating that the legal and supervisory framework of a third country is equivalent to the requirements of the EU Space Act
 - International agreements with third countries or international organizations (e.g. mutual recognition)
 - EU-ESA agreement

TITLE VI + VII: Supporting measures + Transitional and final provisions



- Capacity building measures, such as guidance or technical assistance (Art. 109 and 110)
- Union space label if an operator intends to meet higher requirements than the EU Space Act baseline (Art. 111 and 112)
- The EU Space Act... ”shall apply from 1 January 2030” (Art. 119)



Fundamental questions

- Adding costs and administrative burden in the space sector?
 - General goal of simplification of EU policies and laws?
- Principle of proportionality?
 - Only necessary measures that are fit for purpose (functioning of the internal market, competitiveness, space safety and sustainability)?
- Appropriateness of the legal basis?
 - Dedicated space provisions in the TFEU (Art. 4(3) and 189) and national competencies regarding State's international obligations (UN Space Treaties)?
- Impact on international co-operation?
 - e.g. ESA activities?
- Impact on access to space services/data in/from the Union?
- Impact on export?
- Impact on defence and national security and other essential State functions?



Informing the FI Parliament

- The Government must inform Parliament of draft EU legislation (=Union Communication)
 - Union Communication underway
[PoC: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment]

Any (new) views on the matter?

- **Have your say**



Thank you!