



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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Replies received from Member States

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

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[13 November 2024]

The Bolivian Space Agency, under current management, continues with the operation and provision of services through the TKSAT-1 satellite.

Latvia

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[29 October 2024]

Focused on peaceful exploration, sustainability and sector growth, Latvia aims to contribute to scientific and technological advancements in space while aligning with global standards and practices, integrating into the global space community and fostering national expertise and capacity in specific areas of space research and technology.

Strategic engagement with the European Space Agency

The Latvian space policy encourages international partnerships to develop a sustainable, innovative and globally cooperative approach to space activities. Since becoming an associate member of the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2020, Latvia has actively participated in ESA programmes, including the General Support Technology Programme, the Space Safety Programme (S2P), the Future Earth Observation Programme (FutureEO), the Exploration Envelope Programme (E3P), and the Lunar Gateway and Hera missions. Through these collaborations, Latvia has implemented over 100 projects benefiting more than 30 Latvian companies and institutions, strengthening its role in Europe's space supply chain.

Baltic and European bilateral collaboration

Close collaboration with neighbouring Estonia and Lithuania is central to strengthening the Baltic region's presence in the space sector. The three Baltic States and ESA have set up the Baltic Round Table – a working group of ESA and heads of delegations at ESA. The Baltic Round Table aims to foster the Baltic space economy and supply chains, as well as encourage trade and cooperation between space domain entities in the Baltics. In recent years, several joint events have been organized in Latvia, including Baltic Space Industry Days, with the participation of large system integrators, ESA Days, as part of the Deep Tech Atelier conference, ESA training on Earth observation, the BeSpace Conference and workshops on various space-related topics. Currently, there is an ongoing cooperation initiative on Earth observation called the EO Baltic Platform for Governmental Services, which is aimed at developing Earth observation-based services and applications for use by the Baltic States.

However, the collaboration goes beyond the Baltic States. During the Space Summit in Seville in 2023, Italy, a founding member of ESA, and Latvia signed a memorandum of understanding that establishes a legal framework for space-related relations between the two countries. The agreement provides the framework for bilateral cooperation in the field of space activities for peaceful purposes, aimed at identifying areas of common interest and facilitating the exchange of information and the promotion of joint initiatives, such as microsatellite and nanosatellite technologies, Earth observation and related applications, navigation and connectivity applications, space science, academic collaborations, education, training and networking among businesses.

Broader international space partnerships

In addition to ESA, Latvia has partnerships with other European and international bodies. Latvia, represented by Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, has been a full member of the Joint Institute for Very Long Baseline Interferometry as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (JIVE) and the International Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) Telescope since October 2019. This involvement enables Latvian scientists to take part in significant discoveries in space science and collaborate on astronomical observations.

Latvia, represented by the Ministry of Education and Science and the University of Latvia, is the only Baltic State that participates in the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking (EU SST) partnership. Latvia has also been a participant in the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) since 2009, where it benefits from access to valuable meteorological data that support weather forecasting and climate research.

Another important example of international collaboration is with the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA). Latvia has been active in EUSPA, taking part as a participant in and acting as one of the organizers of the seventh Cassini Hackathon. Latvian companies and research organizations also use opportunities offered by Horizon Europe and EUSPA to develop cutting-edge innovations and relevant research. For some companies, the primary market is outside Europe, with some, for example, supplying technologies to entities such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America, SpaceX, Trimble Inc. and Lockheed Martin.

Latvia has also supported international monitoring efforts on space debris, most notably through the collaboration by the Institute of Astronomy of the University of Latvia with ESA on the development of multi-static space debris laser ranging and photometry capability for the satellite laser ranging station in Riga, which is part of the International Laser Ranging Service (IRLS). At the end of August 2024, the Institute was recognized as a partner of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) due to its continuous, highly accurate observations and measurements.

Through these collaborations, Latvia gains critical technical support, positioning it to make meaningful contributions to international space exploration and enhance its presence in the global space sector.

Future ambitions and commitments

Aiming to play an active role in international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, as well as the utilization of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development, Latvia has applied for membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The national process for ratifying the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies will begin in the coming months. Membership of the Committee, alongside active partnerships with ESA, EUMETSAT, JIVE, EUSPA and the International LOFAR Telescope underscores the country's dedication to advancing the space sector in alignment with global standards and building expertise.