



EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY INSTITUTE

**ESPI Statement at the 66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

May 31st, 2023

Agenda Item 4

Presented by: Hermann Ludwig Moeller, ESPI Director

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Allow me to begin by extending our warm congratulations to the efficient chairmanship of this esteemed gathering. We commend your diligent efforts in ensuring the smooth conduct of this meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs for their meticulous preparations, which have undoubtedly contributed to the success of this event.

Particularly, we would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Acting Director, Mr Niklas Hedman. His dedication and impeccable work have greatly impacted the work of this Committee. We extend our best wishes to him in his future endeavours.

The European Space Policy Institute is an independent think tank dedicated to providing decision-makers with proposals, recommendations and policy options, supported by informed views on mid-to-long-term issues relevant to space activities. Our mission is promoting European space policy on a global level by facilitating an active forum for the analysis and discussion of European needs, capabilities and long-term prospects in space activities. Our activities cover a broad range of topics, including space economy, space security, space exploration and space diplomacy among others.

Distinguished delegates, it is an honour to address you today as the newly appointed Director of the European Space Policy Institute. In my new capacity, I am deeply committed to leading ESPI into a new era of research, engagement, and impact, and I am excited to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to advance European and international space policy development.

As the Director of ESPI, I am dedicated to ensuring that ESPI continues to provide valuable contributions to the space community by offering strategic insights and analyses, particularly in addressing the challenges of our time like climate change and geopolitical developments.

As we reach the midpoint of this momentous year, 2023, we will proudly celebrate ESPI's 20th anniversary. With youthful energy and unwavering commitment to excellence, rigour, and impact, ESPI is stepping up further as a dynamic organization. On occasion of our 20th anniversary, we will be honoured to share our vision, a plan for "ESPI 2040".

Distinguished delegates, as we embark on a remarkable journey of exploration, facing unprecedented challenges on our planet, space diplomacy becomes the beacon that enables the continuation of peaceful relations and shared responsibility and prosperity in outer space. By fostering global collaboration in space science and policy, we forge a united path to unlock extraordinary discoveries, uplift humanity, and address the pressing issues that transcend borders.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates, I am delighted to announce that, in pursuit of these values, we have designed the Vienna Space Diplomat (VSD); an engagement platform designed specifically for the space diplomatic community in Vienna. The VSD network will bring together international policymakers, diplomats, and experts in a series of dynamic events aimed at supporting international space affairs and advancing the role of space in a broader societal and economic context.

The VSD offers a diverse range of engagement formats, including:

1. COPUOS Side Events: These long-standing gatherings take place on the sidelines of UN COPUOS sessions, providing a platform for space policy experts, scholars, and industry leaders to delve into contemporary issues.

2. The VSD Annual Reception: A yearly networking event that attracts distinguished guest speakers, including high-level diplomats, fostering valuable connections and dialogue.
3. VSD Forum: Throughout the year, the VSD will host a series of interactive events, curated to discuss pertinent topics identified by ESPI researchers, promoting informed discussions and open exchanges among members of the community.

Additionally, the VSD platform ensures ongoing engagement by offering a regular newsletter, providing updates, crucial information, and encouraging participation in upcoming events.

By harnessing these diverse engagement formats, the Vienna Space Diplomat network serves as a catalyst for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the exploration of innovative solutions that push the boundaries of space diplomacy.

Accordingly, distinguished delegates, we extend a cordial invitation to all delegations to join the VSD network and actively participate in our diverse range of events. We particularly invite you all to attend three significant gatherings.

- Firstly, our side event titled "UN COPUOS and ITU Regimes: Synergies and Best Practices".. The side event will take place tonight at the ESPI Premises at 18:30, and it will be organised in collaboration with Secure World Foundation (SWF).
- Secondly, we invite you to the 3rd Inter-Regional Space Policy Dialogue between the Asia-Pacific and Europe, jointly organized with the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, which will be held next Saturday, June 3rd, at 9:30 at our premises. This dialogue will focus on national approaches to space sustainability and the implementation of LTS Guidelines.
- Finally, the inaugural VSD summer reception will take place on July 13 with the Permanent Representation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as host.

In conclusion, Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates, ESPI is committed to supporting the development of a resilient, sustainable, and responsible space sector. We believe that our new leadership, the establishment of the Vienna Space Diplomat Platform, and our ongoing research and analysis activities will continue to contribute significantly to this goal.

We look forward to engaging with the esteemed delegates of this Committee in our shared pursuit of a peaceful and prosperous future in outer space.

Thank you, Mr Chair.