

Statement of the Hellenic Republic  
Fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the  
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Agenda item 3 - General exchange of views

Madam Chair, distinguished Delegates and Representatives,

Today Space is an enabler for Digital Transformation. Greece has a long tradition in engagement in International and European Organizations. Greece is a founding member of the UN International Telecommunication Union since 1865 and has been a member of IMSO, ITSO, EUTELSAT. Since 1988, it is a member of EUMETSAT and since 2005 a member of the European Space Agency (ESA). Additionally, as a Member State of the European Union Greece has active participation in GSA/EUSPA and European Union Satellite Center (SatCen) to name a few.

Since May 2003 Greece belongs to the Space faring nations, with the first Greek Telecommunication Satellite, HELLAS SAT II, being launched. In June 2017 HELLAS SAT III was launched, to replace the aging HELLAS SAT II and in February 2019 HELLAS SAT IV followed. Since 2019, Greece has an operational Governmental Satellite Communications system “GreeCom” connecting i.e. Ministries, Parliament, Embassies, civil protection authorities.

Since 2017, the General Secretariat for Telecommunications and Post of the Ministry of Digital Governance is the competent administrative authority for all civilian Space issues in Greece. It represents the country in all European and international organisations including EU, ESA, ITU as well as other international organizations with focus on Space related activities apart from EUMETSAT which is represented by the Ministry of National Defence. In 2017 the National Space Council was established with representatives from various ministries chaired by the Secretary General for Telecommunications and Post. It is the body ensuring appropriate coordination across the country on Space matters. The Ministry of Digital Governance has long history of collaboration with the Ministry of National Defence in the field of Space. Since 2019 the two ministries have signed a programmatic agreement, in order to facilitate appropriate coordination for development and utilisation of multipurpose Space technologies and applications.

In December 2017 a dedicated Space Law was adopted, in which the licensing of space activities is regulated and a National Register of Space Objects is established. In 2020, under a new law, the national objectives of Greece in the Space domain have been laid down, and include the following: a) the strengthening of national security and defence, especially through the exploitation and development of Space infrastructure, b) the development of the national Space industry, c) the exploitation of Space data and the development of related applications and d) the support of research and innovation in the Space field. This law is also targeting simplification of procedure regarding participation in ESA programmes to boost competitiveness. Greece provides automatically letters of support to all Greek entities participating in ESA Competitive Tenders. In non-competitive ESA Tenders, provision of letters of support is awarded following public invitations and competitive procedures conducted by the General Secretariat of Telecommunications and Post in cooperation with ESA and after relevant evaluation of the proposals by ESA.

The recent strategy on Digital Transformation 2020-2025 of December 2020 lays out specific activities that the government will undertake in the Space domain. These are: a) upgrade of the Hellenic Copernicus Collaborative Ground Segment; b) GOVSATCOM- GreeCom; c) Line of action for the development of 5G

Networks; d) Fibre in the sky and ground infrastructures; e) Development of the Micro-Satellite Project; f) Applications of Secure Quantum Cryptography – for the European Union Quantum Communications Infrastructure (EuroQCI); g) National Experimental Infrastructure for the Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).

In 2020, the European Space Agency, chose the Chelmos Observatory as the first Optical Ground Station (OGS) of the ESA's ARTES Secure and Laser communication technology programme (ScyLight). It will also be used under the EuroQCI of the EU. In 2021 two more additional optical ground stations, Skinakas and Cholomondas are also under preparation to be part of the EuroQCI initiative of the EU. Additionally, in 2021 an ESA Business Incubation Centre was set up.

Greece has auctioned its 5G licenses. A 25% of the funds has been used for the setup of Phaistos 5G Fund aiming the management of investments in businesses established in Greece or other Member States of the EU or in third countries, which are active in R&D or service provision in 5G infrastructures in Greece including in areas such as logistics, industry, defence, space, public networks, health, tourism, ICT and media.

Overall, Greece is looking for complementarity and synergies between national, European and ESA programmes. Activities at the EU level (e.g. EuroQCI, Govsatcom, EU SST/SSA, Copernicus, Galileo/EGNOS) coupled with participation in ESA provide the basis for multi-purpose technology and applications development in response to national needs and industrial capabilities.

Thus, a comprehensive legal, policy and strategy framework supports and governs Space activities in Greece coupled with programmatic activities. With the motto "Space as an enabler for digital transformation", in a step by step approach Greece is enhancing its capabilities and is utilizing and expanding its infrastructures, promotes a more efficient public sector and provides benefits of its citizens and businesses in the digital era.

Madam Chair,

As an EU Member State, Greece aligns with the EU statement presented at the occasion of the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We welcome the new Space regulation of the EU bringing together the European stakeholders under the EU umbrella. We consider that this programme will build upon years of investment in Space activities of EU, ESA and the Member States and will provide new opportunities. We welcome the new initiative of the European Union of Commissioner Breton on Space based secure connectivity. Greece intends to support this initiative with ground and Space infrastructure. Additionally, Greece is currently engaging with its related stakeholders in becoming a full member of the European Union's Space Surveillance and Tracking Initiative (SST).

Finally, we believe that Space technologies and applications are crucial not only in ensuring the digital transformation but in times of crisis like COVID they can support a sustainable socioeconomic growth. Therefore, we support the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, Disaster management and climate to name a few.

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives, Madam Chair, Thank you for your attention.