

Workshop of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Panel 2 - Safety of space operations

Abstract of Pascal Faucher, Programme Manager Security, Centre National D'Études Spatiales (CNES)

1. It is proposed that Dr Pascal Faucher, assuring the chairmanship of the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking Partnership (EU SST), participates to the Workshop of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in the framework of Panel 2 focusing on Safety of space operations as a nominee by the French delegation.
2. Pascal Faucher will present the rationale behind the opening of the EU SST Collision Avoidance (CA) public service to all spacecraft operators worldwide as of 1 January 2023, as well as the opportunities it represents for capacity-building, in line with guidelines B.4 and C.1 of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. As of 5 February 2024, EU SST helps 58 satellite operators, from both EU and non-EU countries, to avoid catastrophic collisions in all orbit regimes for 433 spacecraft.
3. The opening of the CA service to all spacecraft operators worldwide is a political decision made by 27 Member States, European Parliament, Council of the European Union and European Commission, following Article 8 of the regulation establishing the Union Space Programme. This decision relies on a belief that a fundamentally public collision avoidance service is necessary to ensure a minimum level of spaceflight safety and avoid a catastrophic collision in orbit that would generate thousands of new debris and would therefore endanger all space activities over a long period.
4. The opening of the CA service enables to promote and facilitate international cooperation, and encourages all countries, including developing and emerging spacefaring nations which may not possess the capability to perform conjunction assessment during all orbital phases of controlled flight, to contribute to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.