

<p>Arianespace Declaration to COPUOS Workshop on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities</p>
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United Nations, Vienna, 14 February 2013

Formed in 1980, Arianespace is the world leader launch operator on commercial satellites market. Its shareholders are CNES, Astrium and all the European space sector manufacturers representing a total of 10 European countries. The mission and operation of the company are defined in an Arrangement binding it to the European Space Agency (ESA). Arianespace is responsible for guaranteeing an independent access to space for Europe with its range of launchers – Ariane 5 heavy launcher, Soyuz medium launcher and Vega light launcher - for the operation of which it has been retained by ESA.

Since its creation, Arianespace has flown 212 Ariane and 4 Soyuz launchers and 1 Vega launcher from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou in French Guiana. This represents more than half the number of commercial satellites currently in service worldwide. Including the latest Ariane 5 launch on February, 7 2013, Arianespace has made 54 consecutive successful launches of Ariane over the last 10 years.

Since December 2010, Arianespace, a French business entity subject to French law covering space operations, has organised its activities to meet corresponding requirements. Enjoying privileged relations with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French Space Agency (CNES), Arianespace has completed the essential step of implementing the law governing space operations in continuity with existing processes. Requirements and other good practices in force for all flights conducted with Ariane 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 launchers have been consolidated. For all launches made since December 2010, the French authorities concerned have delivered the necessary authorisations, on the basis of files demonstrating the conformity of the systems in operational service, to Arianespace.

Arianespace supports approved application of rules commonly admitted and subscribed as relating to efforts made, to contribute to the use of space and concerning its long-term sustainability. With the aim of protecting the areas of space regarded as sensitive, Arianespace concentrates in particular on the implementation of the following:

- Clean separation systems
- Procedures for the passivation of stages remaining in orbit
- Orbital procedures designed to ensure accurate separation of entities and each other minimum distances
- Perigee constraints designed to minimise in-orbit dwell time
- Controlled upper stage re-entry strategies where this is possible
- Inhabited orbiting object collision risk avoidance measures
- Planetary protection measures where this risk exists

In future, the new launch systems in course of development (i.e. Ariane 6) will have the benefit, as from the design stage, of additional measures in response to identified requirements. This will contribute to reducing the imprint left in the most sensitive areas of space, in particular due to the use of re-ignitable upper stages compatible with flexible withdrawal from service strategies (controlled re-entry, earlier release of active orbits).

Arianespace encourages and supports the deployment of this virtuous enhancement cycle to the benefit of the preservation of space. This approach will have as many repercussions that are significant for the international community and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, if it is shared and implemented by a majority of operators round the world.