



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

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Several factors have highlighted the issue of space security

The need to strengthen the security of space activities is recognized internationally

EU approach to space security

EU initiative on space security

EU proposal for a Code of Conduct for outer space activities

Conclusion

Several factors have highlighted the issue of space security

- Human activities are depending more and more on space activities
 - Communication
 - Weather forecast
 - Navigation
 - Climate survey



Several factors have highlighted the issue of space security

- Space faring nations rely more and more on space for their security
 - Military operations
 - Surveillance
- Some specific activities had harmful consequences on the space environment
 - Antisatellite test has generated considerable amount of long life debris objects.



The need to strengthen the security of space activities is recognized internationally

- Several international initiatives
 - UNGA resolutions 61/75 December 2006 and 62/43 January 2008 call for international transparency and confidence building measures
 - UN-COPUOS President speech 2007 : “A safe environment for space activities is no longer a given, if one takes a long term view”
 - Russia and China proposal for a treaty for prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, February 2008



The need to strengthen the security of space activities is recognized internationally

- US Administration “ new TCBMS, implemented on a voluntary basis have the potential to enhance satellite safety and reduce uncertainty in an evolving space security environment”
- President Sarkozy speech in Kourou February 2008: “It is time we found international pragmatic solutions to this concrete problem. To promote security of space activities, we must put in place transparency and confidence building measures on a voluntary basis, that would be acceptable by the most possible States”



EU approach to space security

- European space policy: EU Council resolution, 27 May 2007
 - Strategic value of space for security, environment, peace and prosperity of Europe
 - Need for an autonomous and reliable access to space



EU approach to space security

- Favours a multilateral framework concerning the preservation of the security in outer space
- Recognizes that a treaty for preventing the arms race in outer space could have some merit, but difficulty to converge on clear definitions, need to precise scope and necessity to elaborate a verification system
- Favours a pragmatic and incremental approach that would create the atmosphere of confidence and transparency



EU initiative on space security

- EU action toward TCBM in outer space since 2007
 - EU joint reply to UNGA/61/75 resolution, September 2007
 - Basic principles that applies to space activities
 - Freedom for all to use the outer space for peaceful purposes
 - Preservation of the safety, security and integrity of space objects in orbit
 - Due consideration for the legitimate defence interest of States



EU initiative on space security

- EU joint reply to UNGA/61/75 resolution, September 2007 (con't)
 - The main principles and objectives that a code of conduct in outer space activities could follow
 - progress towards adherence and implementation of the relevant existing treaties, or guidelines regarding space activities
 - develop best practices guidelines for a safer space traffic management
 - develop measures strengthening confidence and mutual understanding
 - affirm the voluntary nature of such a code



EU initiative on space security

- EU project for a draft code of conduct for outer space activities, 2008
- The EU goal
 - A proposal toward an international code of conduct for outer space activities to be acceptable to the greatest number of countries
 - An EU proposal to be submitted to international partners and open for their comments.



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

- The aim of such a code: to elaborate best practices guidelines on a voluntary basis
 - Rules of behaviour on acting in concert
 - Prevention of potential harmful actions in space
 - Consultation mechanism for resolving incidents



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

- The expected concrete results
 - Reducing risk of accident and collision between space objects
 - Mitigating generation of debris
 - Enhancing mutual understanding and confidence between space faring nations and actors



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

- This EU project is the result of common work by Member States
 - Launched by Italy, then actively supported by the successive presidencies with the full cooperation of other Member States
 - EU French presidency priority: actively sustains the way forward to propose this EU contribution to the international space community in close cooperation and coordination with other Member States



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

- The way forward
 - The EU draft code of conduct to be submitted as soon as ready for consultation and review to space faring nations and other nations involved in space activities
 - To be presented to relevant international fora



EU proposal for a code of conduct for outer space activities

- The way forward (con't)
 - Where EU outreach activities appear to show a consensus on a text for an international code of conduct
 - Such project could be endorsed by the AGNU and possibly launched for subscription by all the countries.



CONCLUSION

An international code of conduct or set of best practices guidelines will strengthen the security of space activities and allow their development for the sake of human activities.



Thank you for your attention