



STM STAKEHOLDER MECHANISM – MAIN GROUP

2nd meeting – virtual (WebEx)

Thursday 23 May 2024 from 10:00 to 12:30 CEST

SUMMARY

Observers: none

Experts: none

(1) Welcome and introduction

The co-chairs (DG DEFIS and EEAS) welcomed the participants.

(2) Adoption of the draft agenda

The co-chair (DG DEFIS) presented the agenda which was adopted without comments.

(3) Update on activities of STM subgroups

DG DEFIS reiterated that, as outlined in the Terms of References, the four subgroups report to the STM main group. DG DEFIS and EEAS will therefore debrief STM main group delegates regularly on the progress and activities of the subgroups.

DG DEFIS presented an update on activities of STM **subgroup 1** on civilian and military STM requirements. The first meeting took place a week earlier; agenda highlights included a zoom-in on civilian and military STM operators, and an exchange of views on preliminary areas of focus of civilian and military STM requirements.

DG DEFIS stressed that **subgroup 2**, the EU Industry and Start-ups Forum on STM (EISF) co-chaired by DG DEFIS and the EU SST Partnership, is the most active of the four subgroups. The fifth meeting took place in November 2023 with Working Groups coordinating activities on the development of innovative commercial sensors and value chain, on services, and on data provision.

DG DEFIS updated delegates on activities on **subgroup 3** on regulatory aspects. The setup is almost complete with the first meeting planned for Q4/2024. Preparatory activities are already taking place, e.g., Member State consultations on a draft legislative proposal on an

EU Space Law, a recently finalised study on an EU Space Label, and preparations for developing Rules of the Road standards.

EEAS outlined activities related to **subgroup 4** on the international dimension. It reiterated that the EU STM approach involves a regional contribution into an international setting; subgroup 4 will therefore serve to inform its members on ongoing international activities on STM. Subgroup 4 has not met yet, but a range of activities are already ongoing, such as technical-level discussions, e.g., with the U.S., and presentations on UN level.

Subsequent discussions revolved around the role and mandate of EDA in representing military interests of EU Member States and military operators, and logistical aspects on the setup and operation of subgroups 1, 3 and 4.

(4) Debrief on Presentation on an EU Space Label

DG DEFIS explained that the Joint Communication proposed an EU approach for STM relying *inter alia* on regulatory aspects and soft-law measures such as standards and guidelines as well as accompanying incentive measures. It therefore carried out a study on an EU Space Label to explore options for establishing a voluntary instrument to promote common standards, guidelines, and best practices, and to develop incentive measures that allow to access and use space in a safe environment, maintain a competitive space industry in the EU, and enhance EU strategic autonomy. The Final Event took place on 06/03/2024 and gathered some 200 participants from 110 entities. Programme highlights included the presentation of the EU Space Label as outlined in the study, a panel discussion with representatives from ASD-Eurospace, SME4Space, #YEESS and Friends of Europe, and an exchange of views with participants.

(5) Presentation of results of reflective STM questions

DG DEFIS gave a recap on the four STM questions shared with STM main group delegates in the first meeting; 16 Member States and EDA submitted replies. DG DEFIS explained that, together with EEAS, it consolidated, anonymised, and synthesised the main points raised in the replies. Overall, replies converged on many points and corresponded to DG DEFIS' and EEAS' assessments of the current STM situation.

DG DEFIS presented similarities, particularities, and conclusions from the replies to the **first question** “*Do you have in place or are working on STM approach? Have you recently launched any initiatives (e.g., projects, studies, practices)?*”. Replies confirmed that STM played an important role in many national initiatives, complemented by engagement in European and international fora, and investments in technical and operational SSA capabilities by Member States of the EU SST Partnership. Member State replies therefore confirmed the presence of all four STM avenues outlined in the Joint Communication in national activities, and the complementarity of Member State activities and capabilities.

EEAS presented similarities, particularities, and conclusions from the replies to the **second question** “*Does your STM approach include safety, sustainability, and security, or only part of these three elements?*”. Replies showed a clear trend to address safety and

sustainability as part of an EU STM approach, and to acknowledge the link to security while respecting national competences in this domain.

DG DEFIS presented the main issues raised in the replies received in response to the **third question** “*What, in your opinion, are the key challenges for the establishment of a European approach to STM? How could these be overcome in your view?*”; these included governance aspects; operational aspects related to the EU SST Partnership; security, defence, and military aspects; regulatory aspects; involvement of EU industry; international aspects; and links between ATM and STM. For each aspect, DG DEFIS outlined relevant elements in more detail, and presented actions taken, ongoing and/or in preparation on EU level to address these issues, complemented by suggestions for additional measures where applicable.

DG DEFIS presented the main issues raised in the replies received in response to the **fourth question** “*Are there specific actions that we should take in order to prepare our industry for the future of space traffic management?*”; these included close consultation of, information to, and involvement of the EU industry; supporting and fostering EU industry and ensuring competitiveness; additional studies, workshops, and initiatives; and other aspects such as responsibilities in ATM and STM, and synergies with defence. For each aspect, DG DEFIS outlined relevant elements in more detail, and presented actions taken, ongoing and/or in preparation on EU level to address these issues, complemented by suggestions for additional measures where applicable.

Subsequent discussions revolved around the importance of ECSS standards, coordination between national, EU and international initiatives, the evolution and budget of SST services and capabilities, and the need for coordination on ATM and STM matters.

(6) Exchange of views on Space Traffic Management

This agenda point foresaw an exchange of views with STM main group delegates on three follow-up questions. Due to extensive discussions under previous agenda points, the co-chair (DG DEFIS) announced that DG DEFIS and EEAS would request replies to these questions in writing after the meeting.

(7) Conclusions and next steps

The co-chair (DG DEFIS) announced that a silent procedure would be launched on sharing the replies to the four STM questions within the STM main group. Delegates would also be invited to submit their replies on the three follow-up questions in writing. The co-chairs (DG DEFIS and EEAS) thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

EU Member State/entity	authority/organisation/service
Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

EU Member State/entity	authority/organisation/service
Croatia	University of Zagreb Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences
Croatia	Croatia Control Ltd
Cyprus	Department of Electronic Communications
Czechia	Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic
Denmark	Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science
Finland	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland
France	Ministère de l'économie et des finances/direction générale des entreprises/Service de l'économie numérique
France	CNES, Directorate of Strategy, Defense and Security
Germany	German Space Agency (DLR)
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance/Secretariat General of Telecommunications and Post
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance
Italy	Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Office of the Military Advisor
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Space Agency
Netherlands	Netherlands Space Office
Portugal	Portuguese Space Agency
Portugal	Armed Forces General Staff/Communications and Information, Cyberspace and Space Center/Space Department
Romania	Romanian Space Agency
Spain	Agencia Espacial Española (AEE)
Sweden	Swedish National Space Agency
Sweden	Swedish Contingency Agency, MSB
European Commission	DG DEFIS.B.1 Secure Connectivity and Space Surveillance
European External Action Service	MD-PSD.SECDEFPOL.5 – Space
European Defence Agency	Capability Directorate/Information Superiority Unit/Space