



STM STAKEHOLDER MECHANISM – MAIN GROUP

1st meeting – virtual (WebEx)

Wednesday 27 September 2023 from 09:30 to 12:30 CEST

SUMMARY

Observers: none

Experts: Representatives presenting agenda point 5 (joined only for this point)

(1) Welcome and introduction

The co-chair (DG DEFIS) welcomed the participants and presented the agenda which participants had received before the meeting.

(2) Opening remarks

The Director of Secure and Connected Space in DG DEFIS stressed the exponential increase in space activities and the resulting need for an EU approach to STM to protect the continued access to space. Space is recognised as a strategic area in its own right and a catalyst of strength for other key EU economic sectors. This is why the Commission and the High Representative proposed a Joint Communication on an EU approach on STM which addresses sustainability, security and safety of space operations at the EU level along four axes to meet operational and regulatory needs: (1) establish civilian and military needs with the Member States; (2) develop EU operational capabilities relying on synergies with EU industry; (3) establish a progressive and adapted regulatory framework at EU level; and (4) establish international partnerships to promote an international rules-based regime and cooperation with strategic partners, mainly the U.S. However, as any STM measure must ensure EU competitiveness, the EU industry is directly involved in the EU STM framework. It is an absolute necessity for the EU to cooperate on STM as outlined in the Joint Communication. This endeavour can only be done in close cooperation with the Member States, and all expertise and capacities need to be brought together to prepare for the challenges ahead.

The Director of Security and Defence Policy in EEAS highlighted that space safety and sustainability are prerequisites of space security addressing important Foreign Affairs and Security Policy elements: The challenge of STM affects a diverse community in an environment the EU considers both a global commons and a strategic domain; the EU STM

approach therefore pairs regional contributions to STM with an overall ambition for multilateral cooperation and engagement with key partners such as the U.S. While STM is primarily a civilian endeavour, it is vital to consider defence implications; military satellites, including those on which the EU relies for the Common Security & Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, must be taken into account. Following the first Joint Communication on space, the STM stakeholder mechanism employs a format that is for the first time co-chaired by DG DEFIS and EEAS. Acknowledging the need to implement STM through the cooperation of different institutions, the role of Member States in enriching this process through their expertise is crucial.

(3) Presentation of Terms of References and Rules of Procedure

DG DEFIS presented key elements of the Terms of References and Rules of Procedure of the STM stakeholder mechanism main group. Participants had received the complete document before the meeting.

Subsequent discussions revolved around details on the interactions between the main group and subgroups, the nominations of national delegates and experts, and the frequency of future meetings.

(4) State of Play on Space Traffic Management

DG DEFIS presented a state of play on the EU approach on STM outlining key milestones and initiatives such as Council Conclusions and the Joint Communication endorsed through Council Conclusions and an EP Resolution in 2022.

EEAS presented preparatory steps for setting up the STM stakeholder mechanism stressing that this is the first consultation forum in the space domain jointly co-chaired and implemented by the Commission and the High Representative.

EEAS outlined that for avenue 1 on civil and military spacecraft operator requirements, subgroup 1 of the STM stakeholder mechanism is being set up, and will gather the implications for European satellite operators, both civilian and military, that are part of or subject to an STM regime, so their views and needs on operational aspects are taken into account.

DG DEFIS outlined actions taken for avenue 2 on operational STM capabilities. The EU SST Partnership of 15 members is set up and in charge of implementing the STM operational capabilities; relevant grants have been concluded and close coordination avoids duplications between SST and SDA activities. Subgroup 2 (EISF) is operational gathering more than 150 participants from more than 70 companies; thereby developing an active EU SST ecosystem; it has working groups on SST commercial data, provision of public services, and innovative commercial sensors.

DG DEFIS outlined preparatory steps for avenue 3 on regulatory STM aspects. Subgroup 3 will be set up soon and will enable an exchange of views on standards, best practices, and regulatory aspects. A study on incentive measures (space label) is underway, a

standardisation grant with CEN on the Rules of the Road is ongoing, and a legislative proposal addressing space safety, security and sustainability is in preparation.

EEAS outlined activities so far taken in the context of avenue 4 on international aspects incl. space dialogues with U.S., Canada and Japan on bilateral level, conferences reaching a wide audience of STM-interested partners on global level (incl. those organised by EU), and presentations of the EU STM approach to UN COPUOS. DG DEFIS reported on an ongoing study to analyse legal implications for the EU to join the UN Outer Space Treaties on multilateral level.

Subsequent discussions revolved around timelines for setting up the subgroups, subgroup compositions and members, and details on the envisaged regional STM approach. The need to advance on STM matters as a priority was highlighted several times.

(5) Presentation of Horizon 2020 studies o STM

The co-chair (DG DEFIS) explained that two Horizon 2020 studies were carried out that gathered requirements for an STM regime. Both studies had a significant industry participation and were conducted autonomously without steering by the Commission, highlighting the independence and expert views of both studies.

GMV, the EUSTM consortium leader, presented the main outcomes of its STM study which analysed the current STM support competencies and gaps in Europe and defined related needs for an autonomous European STM capability resulting in recommendations on STM guidelines and best practices.

FRS, the SpaceWays consortium leader, presented the main outcomes of its STM study which aimed at creating a link with stakeholder needs and communities, at assessing technical European STM capabilities, at assessing the legal and policy framework of STM, at proposing STM guidelines and best practices in line with European interests, and at contributing to a wide dissemination of the guidelines and recommendations.

(6) Exchange of views on Space Traffic Management

Participants had received four STM questions to reflect upon before the meeting. The co-chairs therefore invited participants to share their thoughts and views in an open exchange of ideas during the meeting.

During subsequent exchanges, EU Member States shared their current activities and initiatives in the field of STM on national level. Due to a lack of time, only the first of four STM questions could be addressed during this meeting.

(7) Conclusions and next steps

The co-chairs thanked the participants for this very constructive and fruitful first meeting. To continue the open exchange on STM, incl. on the remaining three STM questions, DG DEFIS invited participants to share their answers to the STM questions in writing.

DG DEFIS underlined that this group is for EU Member States to exchange STM ideas, to learn about STM initiatives, to hear about the work of the STM subgroups, and to obtain details on relevant STM developments. EU Member States are therefore strongly encouraged to engage in an open and constructive dialogue and bring their thoughts and ideas on STM-related matters into this group. National insights, contributions and expertise as well as constructive and transparent cooperation will be needed to shape and implement the EU approach on STM.

EEAS highlighted the good cooperation between DG DEFIS and EEAS and thanked EU Member States for their insightful contributions and thoughts on STM, and highlighted once again the security perspective, particularly on military spacecraft operators, that will be addressed by the STL stakeholder mechanism.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

EU Member State/ EU institution/other	authority/organisation/service
Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
Belgium	Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)
Bulgaria	Ministry of Innovation and Growth
Bulgaria	State enterprise Air traffic services authority (BULATSA)
Croatia	Croatia Control Ltd
Croatia	University of Zagreb Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences
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	CNES, Directorate of Strategy, Defense and Security
France	Ministère de l'économie et des finances/direction générale des entreprises/Service de l'économie numérique
France	SGDSN / AIST
Germany	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

EU Member State/ EU institution/other	authority/organisation/service
Germany	German Space Agency (DLR)
Hungary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Hungary	Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
Italy	Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU
Italy	Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Office of the Military Advisor
Latvia	Ministry of Education and Science
Lithuania	Ministry of Economics and Innovation of Republic of Lithuania
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Space Agency
Netherlands	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
Netherlands	Netherlands Space Office
Poland	Ministry of Development and Technology
Portugal	Armed Forces General Staff/Communications and Information, Cyberspace and Space Center/Space Department
Portugal	Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU
Portugal	Portuguese Space Agency
Romania	Romanian Space Agency
Slovak Republic	Military Aviation Authority, Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic
Spain	Agencia Espacial Española (AEE)
Sweden	Swedish Contingency Agency, MSB
Sweden	Swedish National Space Agency
European Commission	DG DEFIS.B.1 Secure Connectivity and Space Surveillance
European Defence Agency	Capability Armament and Defence Planning Directorate, Information Superiority Unit
European Defence Agency	Capability Directorate/Information Superiority Unit/Space

EU Member State/ EU institution/other	authority/organisation/service
European External Action Service	MD-PSD.SECDEFPOL.5 - Space
European External Action Service	SG.LD.DPO - Data Protection Officer
European Health and Digital Executive Agency	Digital, Industry and Space, Space Research