



Speech by Commissioner Kubilius at the International Space Summit

Paris, 10 September 2026

It's a big pleasure to be here today at this very important summit.

I'd like to thank first of all the French government and the German government for organising this very important event.

Thank you for putting Space where it belongs: on the top of the European Agenda and the global agenda. And thank you for putting space for defence and defence of space on the same agenda.

Our space assets, European and national, are under attack, mainly by Russia and potentially others: Radiofrequency interference, jamming and spoofing, suspicious proximity operations, development of anti-satellite weapons: Missiles, robots and lasers.

And the war in Ukraine shows modern warfare already depends on space. For communication, observation, intelligence.

It's impossible to defend Europe without space. All our defence priorities right now, like drone and missile defence, depend on space. To protect satellites from damage, deliberate or accidental, we will strengthen EU Space Surveillance and Tracking.

And we shall launch a new in space services and operations system.

We proposed a European Space Act with uniform European traffic rules for space to prevent accidents and debris. And a new radio frequency interference alert service also will be implemented.

We are mobilising space for our security and defence. Galileo offers also space based encrypted communications. Soon even stronger with a new low earth orbit component.

Member States are pooling and sharing national capabilities in GOVSATCOM. Those with secure encrypted satellite communications capabilities, now share with those who don't.

Iris² – a constellation of hundreds of satellites will bring the best secure satellite connectivity in the world. So EU militaries will be able to communicate and coordinate in a single system.

We want Ukraine to join all these efforts. That's why we started negotiations for Ukraine to join Govsatcom and Iris².

These are big and important steps. But not enough to keep Europe safe.

Now when Russia's aggression is escalating – and our transatlantic partners, the Americans are focusing more and more on the Indo Pacific. So we will help to create our own European strategic enablers. And space is the ultimate strategic enabler.

One of our biggest capability gaps is space-based intelligence. Eyes in the sky.

Yes, we do have some national systems. But they are, the majority of them too slow, fragmented. And not all Member States have access.

We are planning an Earth observation service, giving all Member States super fast, super detailed geo-intelligence observation, almost real time, all weather, in rain or shine, night and day.

Key question: how can we best provide EU added value, to sovereign national space defence? That's why soon the Commission will present the Commission Communication on the European Space Shield - our proposal for a European Space Security Architecture, designed together with Member States, for our European space governance.

How to work together for our defence: European Union and Member States. NATO. Civilian and

military. Public and private. Involving all partners in a single platform.

All that we shall be able to proceed, if we shall also catch up with the launching. That's why I congratulate the German company ISAR Aerospace with its recent success. This is a new page in the history of European launching. Launching will be one of the key priorities in the space agenda of the Commission.

And finally, to succeed in space of course we need money for space. So I welcome Member States' investments into space. Last year we proposed a five-fold increase for defence and Space for the next multi-annual EU budget. A new priority, but realities are different and challenges obvious, I call on the Member States to support our proposal.

Our strategic autonomy depends on it.

Our future in space, our future on Earth depends on it.

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