

ESA's international relations activities

International Relations and Space: the European Approach

IFRI/SWF Annual Space Conference

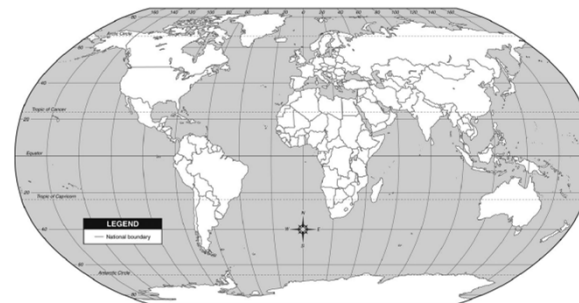
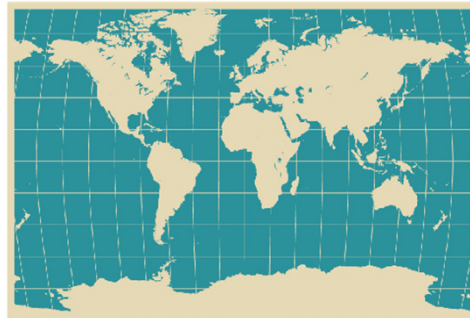
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The state of play after the first decade of the 21st Century



Globalisation of space activities has been accelerating during the first decade of the 21st century:

- More than 60 nations implement national space programmes
- Numerous public and private operators are offering launch services, satellite product and services, and are exploiting space systems to deliver new applications
- Global demand for space data and services has been growing exponentially in certain regions of the world (e.g. Latin America, Asia Pacific)

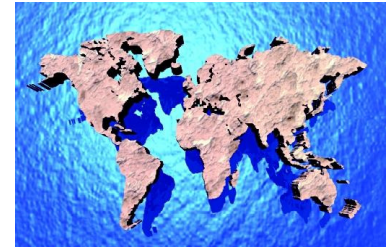


Strategic guidelines for international relations



While taking stock of these developments of the international space community, ESA charts a general approach to international relations, which follows the following directions:

- ESA's international strategy is closely linked to the ever growing significance of the international dimension of the Agency programmes;
- A balance is to be continuously found between cooperation and competition in order to establish solid partnerships;
- A strategy is, above all, the definition of a framework of ESA international engagement at the service of approved programmes and for identifying the most beneficial link between Agency activities and corresponding international partners.



Objectives and implementation

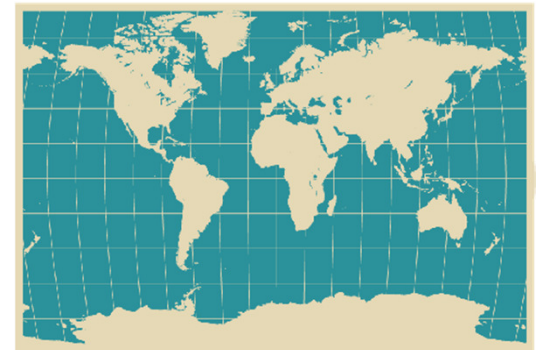


Key Objectives:

- Securing an ESA participation in large and complex programmes (e.g. ISS, exploration)
- Leveraging ESA resources via international cooperation in order to bring in contributions from Non-Member States to expand ESA programmatic deliveries
- Securing international operational support to ESA missions (e.g. ground stations)
- Optimising ESA missions' exploitation and data access via dedicated arrangements to both secure ESA access to non-Member States' missions and, when appropriate, facilitate the dissemination of ESA missions' data around the world
- Serving the global objectives of the Agency programmes with specific actions commensurate to available resources and interests)
- Serving the interests of the Member States, and of the EU for EU-funded programmes.

Implementation:

- Implementing international cooperation essentially to meet the objectives and needs of the ESA programmes. International cooperation at ESA addresses approved programmes and it is carried out following the unanimous approval of dedicated agreements by Member States.
- Optimising the value of its approved international cooperation activities to meet European space policy objectives – in particular with the EU in the context of Space Dialogues.



Few basic principles



Principles for a successful international strategy:

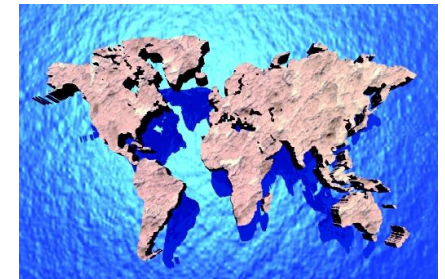
- Maintain a balanced approach to international cooperation with possibilities of back-up options in case one international partner withdraws.
- Define the most successful international cooperation model to be applicable to a specific programme, taking into consideration that historically, the most successful models have followed a well established leadership role in a cooperative activity with ESA either in a leadership role or as a junior partner.
- Strive to define affordable contributions in the critical path of a joint international missions.



An international approach for the Agency: International cooperation and international relations



- **International cooperation** – the ESA priority – applies to the search and securing of international partners' contributions during the development phase of ESA programmes or vice-versa. International cooperation is implemented with key capable space-faring nations – namely the US, Russia, China, Japan, Canada, India, etc.
- **International relations** entails necessary background work to develop international cooperation. This background work ranges from the monitoring of relevant international space developments to advise on possibilities for ESA to seize cooperation opportunities offered by international partners.



Example of ESA's international cooperation actions (1)



United States

- ISS
- The James Webb Space Telescope, Solar Orbiter, Euclid
- Definition of future space science cooperation
- Discussions on new Earth observation cooperative activities



Russia

- Definition of a new cycle of cooperation after Soyuz at CSG, which encompasses ExoMars, JUICE, lunar robotics and ground operations cross-support



China

- Continuation of successful Earth science cooperation (Dragon-3)
- Discussion of new cooperative activities after Double Star (KuaFu, X-ray)

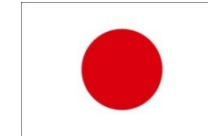


Example of ESA's international cooperation actions (2)



Japan

- Implementation of two cooperative missions: BepiColombo and EarthCare
- Definition of the next cycle of cooperation to be initiated



Canada

- Implementation of the current ESA – Canada cooperation Agreement
- Possible Canadian contributions to C/M12 as a participating state in new Agency optional programmes.



Example of ESA's international cooperation actions (3)



- International cooperation actions are also undertaken to support the infrastructure needs of ESA. For example:
 - Downrange stations for AR5, Soyuz and Vega in Brazil, Gabon and Kenya
 - Tracking activities with the addition of the Deep State Station in Argentina, stations in Australia, etc.
 - Network of ground receivers around the world
- Specific arrangements are taken to acquire data from international partners' missions, in particular in the Earth observation area.
- Expansion of the use of ESA missions' data to meet global needs (e.g. climate change, Charter on space and disasters, regional needs, implementation of international conventions, etc.).
- Facilitation and coordination role of the Agency for Member States actions in the UN context.

- Coordination of international actions with the EU is based on the ESA – EU Framework Agreement (article 7, “External dimension of the cooperation”, which foresees mutual information and consultation if relevant), and related provisions of the successive Space Council resolutions, which call for such a coordination and support to EU policies.
- Coordination is undertaken at different levels, in the context of regular meetings.
- ESA joins and actively supports the EC for Space Dialogues with the US, Russia, China and South Africa.
- The general principle is that ESA provides support to EU international actions related to space, on the basis of an ESA programmatic interest and within available ESA resources.