



Plenary sitting

B8-0055/2017

10.1.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure
on the proliferation of space debris

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the proliferation of space debris

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 189 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas millions of pieces of debris are orbiting the Earth at more than 28 000 km/h, posing, according to a study from the Russian Academy of Sciences, ‘a real political and strategic danger’ if they should collide, for instance, with military satellites;
- B. whereas in these circumstances, sending satellites into space will probably be very risky for the next thirty years or so, even though their presence in orbit around the Earth is necessary, in particular to enable mobile communications;
- C. whereas in 2014, the International Space Station experienced five emergencies caused by debris, and in 2007 a Russian satellite was damaged by a cloud of debris created by the destruction of an old meteorological satellite by China, which released an additional 3 000 pieces of debris into space;

Urges the Commission:

1. to apprise Member States and competent organisations of the proliferation of space debris, which is in danger of reaching a point of no return;
2. to contact the European Space Agency in order to find lasting solutions to curb the presence of space debris orbiting the Earth