

**Question for written answer E-007238/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Space - international competition, institutional markets and Earth observation programme

In its Space Strategy for Europe, the Commission has given priority to the promotion of a competitive space industry at international level a priority. Indeed, the space sector is facing increasingly intense global competition. In the US, for example, NewSpace companies often receive direct support from NASA and the Defence Department on the institutional markets that are not open to European bidders. However, this is clearly not preventing US companies from developing strategies aimed at securing markets in Europe, in the field of Earth observation for example.

In view of this:

Will the Commission, in connection with the forthcoming review of the Copernicus Regulation, reaffirm that making European industry competitive on institutional markets and elsewhere through the use of European technology will continue to be a priority after 2020?

Also, does the Commission have any tools to verify the financial and supervisory structures of non-EU companies responding to invitations to tender from EU institutions in the space sector, possibly making them eligible for EU funding?