



**2016/2325(INI)**

27.4.2017

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on a Space Strategy for Europe  
(2016/2325(INI))

Rapporteur: Ricardo Serrão Santos

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the 1998 Baveno Manifesto created the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme with the objective of determining Europe's global monitoring role in the field of the environment and security; whereas since 2012 this initiative has been named Copernicus;
  - B. whereas the political decisions taken by Parliament and the Council in 2007 resulted in the allocation of a budget for the European satellite navigation programmes European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) and Galileo and provided for an agreement on the governance structure of the programmes;
  - C. whereas Galileo will be part of the Space System for the Search of Vessels in Distress-Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking (COSPAS-SARSAT) search and rescue satellite system;
  - D. whereas fishing is a high-risk job, where accidents can always happen and the survival of the fisherman usually depends on receiving medical attention as quickly as possible;
  - E. whereas, in order to have a better analysis of the stocks and of the marine environment more and swifter data is needed;
1. Welcomes the Space Strategy for Europe, which is of great importance for marine and maritime issues and fishing activities and has great potential for developing human activity at sea and preserving the marine environment;
  2. Recognises the importance of the Space Strategy for Europe for the coordinated action of administrative bodies and other stakeholders;
  3. Calls attention to the lack of any mention of the relationship between Air and Sea, as the absence of the words 'ocean' and 'marine' demonstrates;
  4. Recognises that space technologies, data and space-based services 'already contribute to a number of public policies and economic sectors' including control of fishing activities, forecast and monitoring of shipping routes and detection and monitoring of oil spills and other pollutants, search and rescue operations at sea, illegal fishing and piracy;
  5. Recognises that allowing public authorities to benefit from more permanent and responsive space-based ocean surveillance capacities will allow them to respond more quickly and to make substantial savings by better targeting their actions, especially while combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
  6. Underlines the importance of using the newest technology and encouraging the development of new systems to monitor and combat IUU fishing more effectively;
  7. Emphasises the importance of Galileo and EGNOS for maritime security and navigation through their role in strengthening and improving other international systems and

contributing to Europe's technological independence;

8. Reminds the Commission of the importance of better coordination between Galileo and EGNOS and the related Copernicus services also in terms of improving safety;
9. Recognises the necessity of developing secure satellite communication systems to meet existing and future needs within the European maritime community, including maritime surveillance based on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, which depend heavily on satellite communications;
10. Welcomes the Commission's Governmental Satellite Communications initiative (GOVSATCOM);
11. Emphasises the importance of Copernicus in fully understanding the climate and weather, the oceans' natural biological processes and aggressive anthropogenic interventions, all of which are crucial issues for fisheries;
12. Welcomes the recent launch of the Copernicus Marine Service's 'Ocean State Report', an effort on the part of 80 European scientific experts from more than 25 institutions as a step forward in the development of regular annual reporting on the state and health of the global oceans and European seas;
13. Emphasises the need to make imagery data easily available to different industries, various governmental agencies, international organisations, local planners and private users, including ocean surface temperature charts for fisheries as well as data on the marine environment; stresses that the Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring System, provided by Mercator Ocean, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring System and the Copernicus Climate Change Service, provided by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, should have specific tools for European fishermen and be available in all relevant European languages;
14. Emphasises the need to reinforce substantially educational and training tools that allow for full use of the benefits created by space-related tools;
15. Considers that the development of space technologies will make it possible to survey and assess fish stocks more effectively in future;
16. Considers that the Space Strategy for Europe needs to show more ambition in relation to climate change and its impact on the marine environment;
17. Recognises the importance of the Copernicus Relay and Copernicus Academy networks in fostering stakeholder engagement, bringing the regional user dimension to the table and increasing the reach of efforts to promote the uptake of Copernicus data and services;
18. Recognises that the swifter and more precise provision of data will lead to the increased productivity of fish farmers thanks to the monitoring of harmful algal bloom;
19. Recognises the importance of ensuring that future scientific activities better integrate space technological capacities with other policy areas addressing global and societal challenges;

20. Agrees that the potential of Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus has not yet been fully explored and recognises the potential of an alliance between the public and private sectors on the issue of space strategy;
21. Emphasises that space technology as well as its in situ components require large budgets and that it is essential to continue to allocate the necessary resources to this sector in the EU budget;
22. Stresses that the EU's space industry provides employment for more than 200 000 specialists, generates an added value of at least EUR 46 billion and contributes to socioeconomic innovation and exploration in fisheries and the blue economy;
23. Encourages the centralised acquisition of satellite data and the establishment, in this context, of a dedicated centralised purchasing system to encourage data sharing and generate economies of scale; regards as good practice the acquisition of data by the European Maritime Safety Agency for the benefit of the various Union agencies, including the European Fisheries Control Agency;
24. Notes that the Commission proposes to 'encourage the uptake of space solutions', in particular by providing technical support in using innovative and cross-border procurement for space solutions;
25. Stresses the importance of constantly improving search and rescue capabilities and encourages, therefore, the further integration of the Galileo satellite into these types of systems;
26. Considers that the consolidation of existing and future capacities into a genuine European space-based maritime surveillance system, which will benefit a number of institutional users and whose services could be commercially exploited for export, could be a textbook case of the Commission's innovative ambitions in the space sector;
27. Supports the development of high-speed and reliable satellite connections for medical equipment, both for vessels and search and rescue teams, who should be able to communicate with hospitals, by sending and receiving medical data in order to decide on the best course of action as quickly as possible;
28. Recalls that the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories offer an extraordinary dimension and geographic possibilities to Europe, allowing for the development of deployment stations, monitoring facilities and ground-truthing systems all around the globe; regrets that the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories are not mentioned in the Strategy;
29. Emphasises that priorities for the public use of space, including observation, should be related to the legislative needs of European initiatives such as the 'Marine Strategy' Framework Directive;
30. Acknowledges the potential offered by space infrastructures and derived services in efficiently contributing to the objectives of international ocean governance, e.g. in implementing the COP21 agreement and mitigating the impact of climate change on oceans, coastlines and ecosystems, fighting marine litter or promoting maritime spatial

planning (MSP) at global level;

31. Recalls the importance of ensuring ‘the needs of various EU agencies’, such as the European Maritime Safety Agency and the European Fisheries Control Agency, and emphasises that these institutions shall also contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Space Strategy for Europe; insists on cooperation and the sharing of satellite information between the agencies of the Union, particularly the European Maritime Safety Agency, the European Fisheries Control Agency and the European Border and Coast Guard;
32. Calls on the European Fisheries Control Agency to make full use of its new enhanced powers by providing surveillance and communication services that use state-of-the-art technology, in particular space-based infrastructures, in order to detect vessels carrying migrants and to prevent disasters at sea;
33. Emphasises the potential of satellite-enabled applications to improve fisheries control and help safeguard the marine environment;
34. Recalls that one of the major assets for the private sector in space exploration is the development of patents and proprietary information, which should be emphasised in the development of the Space Strategy for Europe;
35. Recalls that technological and industrial development are major assets for the Space Strategy for Europe, and considers that they are not fully explored in the Strategy;
36. Stresses that the forthcoming ninth Framework Programme (FP9) for the period after 2021 must include among its objectives both the integration of the EU’s space strategy, fisheries and blue growth and the involvement of specialised knowledge institutions in these fields;
37. Alerts to the fact that the rapid development of new technologies that rely on augmented intelligence, cognitive computing and neural systems, are not mentioned in the Space Strategy for Europe;
38. Considers that the Space Strategy for Europe encompasses only the near future, and lacks ambition with regard to possible new, visionary and mobilising projects, including for the benefit of intelligent fisheries management;
39. Considers that Europe must become a world leader in the field of ‘blue’ space technology by further rolling out, deploying and improving:
  - Copernicus, which is important with a view to saving lives at sea and in connection with flooding,
  - Galileo, Europe’s worldwide satellite navigation system,
  - EGNOS, a European Differential Global Positioning System, which already provides navigation services to users at sea in connection with the safety of human lives,
  - ‘blue’ drones controlled using satellite data, which can be deployed for rescue operations at sea, on the coast and in the Union’s inland waters, such as by the winner

of the Satnav Prize in 2015.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.4.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 16 - : 1 0 : 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marco Affronte, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, Richard Corbett, Linnéa Engström, Sylvie Goddyn, Carlos Iturgaiz, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Ulrike Rodust, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Jens Gieseke, Verónica Lope Fontagné
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	John Stuart Agnew



## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

16	+
ALDE Group	António Marinho e Pinto
ENF Group	Sylvie Goddyn
PPE Group	Alain Cadec, Jens Gieseke, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Gabriel Mato, Jarosław Wałęsa
S&D Group	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Richard Corbett, Ulrike Rodust, Ricardo Serrão Santos
Verts/ALE Group	Marco Affronte, Linnéa Engström

1	-
EFDD Group	John Stuart Agnew

3	0
ECR Group	Remo Sernagiotto, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen

### Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention