

**Question for written answer E-000170/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Regulation of the space sector

Josef Aschbacher, director general of the European Space Agency (ESA), has recently expressed concern about inadequate regulation of the space sector, allowing it to become a breeding ground for large private companies such as Amazon or SpaceX.

With over 100 000 spacecraft having been launched into low-Earth orbit (LEO) by 2029 according to Satellite Industry Association estimates, the absence of any global satellite management system for in this space band is a cause for great concern.

On the heels of SpaceX, which is now leading the field, the Chinese Government and Amazon's Project Kuiper are also planning to launch their own LEO constellations in the near future. These projects are now well beyond their infancy, with Germany having recently requested the International Telecommunications Union to authorise the launch of around 40 000 Starlink satellites, while Amazon is planning to launch 42 000 satellites over the next few decades, 7 700 of which are already awaiting the green light.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether any ad hoc legislation is being mooted with a view to regulating and monitoring developments in this sector?
2. What does it think of allowing private operators to move in on such a strategically important sector?
3. Does the current market allocation conflict with international monopoly and free competition laws?