

**Question for written answer E-000688/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Implementing IRIS² governance

The EU Space Programme and the Secure Connectivity Programme are strategic assets for European autonomy and non-dependence. The new satellites for the European Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite (IRIS) will also boost our European space industrial base and involve small and medium-sized enterprises in building the system and contributing to EU security. Following on from the Copernicus earth observation programme and the Galileo global navigation satellite system, IRIS satellites will enable Europe to communicate securely anywhere on the globe.

Under the EU Space Programme Regulation¹, the Commission negotiated a financial framework partnership agreement (FFPA) with the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) and the European Space Agency in order to 'clearly define the roles, responsibilities and obligations' of each party and guarantee the 'necessary coordination and control mechanisms'. The outcome is a linear governance approach, which is crucial for the EU Space Programme architecture to function well with a robust system.

1. What is the time frame for designating EUSPA as the contracting authority for Galileo, as agreed in the FFPA?
2. How is the Commission implementing IRIS² governance and to what extent are the established and well-functioning linear models used for Galileo and the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service being introduced in IRIS ² in order to avoid the triangular governance that is now obsolete?

Submitted: 1.3.2023

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013 and (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 69).