

Trilateral Joint Statement  
on the occasion of the European Space Summit 2023  
on present and future European Space Transportation

France, Italy and Germany are firmly committed to stabilise the present, and prepare the future, of the European Space Transportation based on resilience and competition to ensure autonomous and independent access to space for Europe.

Their concordance enabled a path forward for the Council of the European Space Agency to adopt the "Resolution on present and future European Space Transportation" at the occasion of its meeting on 6 November 2023.

Said Resolution combines inseparable arrangements on (a) the exploitation and operation of Ariane 6 and Vega-C in the near and mid-term; (b) a fundamental change in approach of European Space Transportation, under the name of "European Launch Challenge 2025"; (c) Vega prime contractor becoming the operator and launch service provider of Vega for its commercialisation including subsequent revision of the framework for exploitation of European launchers and (d) the availability of launch complexes at Europe's Spaceport/CSG to pursue the preparation of the future of the European Space Transportation.

While Council, in said Resolution, acknowledges that the Participating States intend to cover the difference between cost and revenues for Ariane 6 up to 340 Mio. € per year (e.c.2023) and for Vega C up to 21 Mio. € per year (e.c. 2023) at the next ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial Level in 2025 (CM25), France, Germany and Italy hereby commit to request, within their national budget procedure, the adequate funding of Ariane 6 and Vega C exploitation model and of the European Launcher Challenge. Our commitment to Ariane 6 and Vega C exploitation model, shall allow industry to place the urgently needed production contracts for the first 3 years of Ariane 6 stabilised exploitation corresponding to Flight Models from number 16 to number 42, and to ensure a balanced exploitation for Vega C following return to flight from VV26 to VV42. We further agree to extend the duration of public support, based on audits of the whole industrial chain by independent consultancy, for the stabilised exploitation of both launchers for a period of 18 months beyond the first 3 years of Ariane 6 stabilised exploitation starting in 2026 and after Vega C return to flight. This is in order to provide a margin to allow a smooth kick off and implementation of the Ariane 6 and Vega C implementation model to be financed at CM28 and which, if necessary, will be a revision compared to the model adopted with the "Resolution on present and future European Space Transportation".

Furthermore, we underline that competition in the context of Europe's access to space is necessary and we underline the importance of the ESA Council's resolve, through said Resolution, to prepare the future of European Space Transportation through a "European Launcher Challenge" targeting a ceiling of 150 M€ per awardee, and that will consist of a competition between European space transportation service initiatives.

Moreover, we recall that a review of the legal framework governing the European launcher's exploitation scheme is necessary and should become effective by mid 2024, with the objective of Avio becoming as soon as possible launch service operator

and provider of Vega. In this context, France and Italy will foster the conclusion of an agreement between Arianespace and Avio on the implementation of the seventeen (or until Avio has obtained the necessary licences) launch services contracts concluded by Arianespace.

Finally, France, Germany and Italy share their conviction that the objectives laid out - and measures defined - by the ESA Council in said Resolution in respect of launch complexes at Europe's Spaceport will equally lay path to a competitive, beneficial future of European Space Transportation.

In witness thereof, we sign this Joint Statement,

For France

For Germany

For Italy