



**IFSH**

Institut für  
Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik  
an der Universität Hamburg



## **In need for a European Space Security Strategy (E3S)**

Joint memorandum by IFSH and ESPI – December 2007

**Europe needs a strategy for using space as a basic element for security. The purpose of this joint IFSH/ESPI policy memorandum is to present the rationale for developing a European Space Security Strategy (E3S) to enhance the current and future synergies between space and security in Europe to ensure the security and stability of the enlarged European Union.**

Following the evolution of Europe's role in security and defence with, in particular, the launch of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and the adoption of the European Security Strategy, the importance of space for Europe's security is directly reflected in the adoption of numerous documents in the last years such as "the European Space Policy: ESDP and Space" endorsed by the European Council in 2004. The significant contribution of space was further acknowledged in the newly adopted European Space Policy (ESP) in May 2007 with the dedicated chapter on "security and defence" confirming the increasing importance of space-based capabilities to support the security of Europe and its citizens.

Space based assets have become a strategic element for crisis management covering both civilian and military applications. With The 2007 European Space Policy and EU/ESA as well as Member States initiatives for security and defence purposes, the EU constantly grows as a global player. Thus the dependency on space based infrastructure becomes stronger, which generates the need to protect these systems against interference. In this context, Space Security is the decisive conceptual approach. Despite the new ESP, Space Security has not been addressed appropriately yet. Bringing in the norms of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and its European Security Strategy (ESS) analogy, Space Security has to be dealt with cooperatively within the United Nations (UN). This calls for a comprehensive and coherent approach including political measures and technical solutions (Space Surveillance Systems, Space Traffic Management). As a global agreement on Space Security is far from being realistic, the EU has to come up with a strategy to define its objectives regarding its approach to cooperative security in space at least. In particular, these would comprise not only confidence building measures with non-EU states on space security, but also a detailed roadmap for negotiations on a space weapons ban treaty and restrictions to specific capabilities of EU/ESA and their Member States' systems.

Such a European Space Security Strategy (E3S) must include both a well defined strategic mission and a detailed action implementation plan. It is to touch upon integration into CFSP

and ESDP, including the course of action in diplomatic, strategic, economical and scientific matters in various international relations and bodies. As the EU already represents Europe's view in the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), an underlying E3S will shape a coherent European action and universalize a cooperative approach in international fora.

First and foremost a E3S aims at providing a substantial framework to EU/ESA and their Member States' space activities, including those capable of civil and military ESDP tasks. It shall emphasize the peaceful use of outer space and carefully differentiate the aims and the instruments that are used therefore. Furthermore the E3S is to define the civil-military balance in the context of space based information gathering for ESDP purposes: inter alia a question of data policy within the EU and its Member States as well as in regard to associated partners in the world. As for instance space surveillance systems are dual-use technologies, their purpose and application have to be defined carefully with respect to the concept of space arms control. Additionally, technical solutions allowing to gather among others knowledge of space situation/weather, space traffic management, redundancy and hardening of infrastructure and backup systems shall be considered.

As a first step we propose a detailed IFSH/ESPI study on the concept and need for space security with respect to EU-international relations and possible confidence building measure (CBM) with additional EU presidency workshops and expert meetings. Simultaneously IFSH/ESPI will introduce an elaborated initial E3S draft by the beginning of 2008.

## **Mission Statements:**

### **IFSH:**

(<http://www.ifsh.de>, <mailto:ifsh@ifsh.de>)

The Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy is an independent research institution at the University of Hamburg. The two terms in the institute's name highlight the central hypothesis underlying its work: Ensuring peace and providing security are two sides of the same coin. They cannot be pursued in isolation from each other. This is equally true of the situation - now receding into history - in which Europe knew peace under nuclear deterrence as it is of the contemporary situation, in which threats to security emanate from regional armed conflicts, transnational terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The work of the institute is thus underpinned by the postulate of a security policy that is both effective and geared to the use of peaceful means. The institute's current research programme, under the banner "Civilizing conflict - preventing violence and consolidating peace by civilian means", gives concrete form to this approach. The IFSH's research profile demonstrates an awareness of political realities, a focus on problem solving, and an international mix of staff and project partners.

### **ESPI:**

(<http://www.espi.or.at>, <mailto:office@espi.or.at>)

ESPI's mission is to carry out studies and research to provide decision-makers with an independent view on mid- to long-term issues relevant to the governance of space. Through its activities, ESPI contributes to facilitating the decision-making process, increasing awareness on space technologies and applications with the user communities, opinion leaders and the public at large, and supporting students and researchers in their space-related work. To fulfil these objectives, the Institute supports a network of experts and centres of excellence working with ESPI in-house analysts.

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