

17. Czech Republic

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The Czech Republic understands and supports the objective of “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society” and we supported this initiative during the last STSC based on the resolution of the Czech Astronomical Society.

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

It is worth mentioning that satellites and satellite constellations are a symbol of strategic-autonomous importance, it is also necessary to bear in mind irreplaceable elements in the everyday services they provide to target users on Earth. On the other hand, most of these satellites are located on Low Earth Orbits, which complicates the work of scientific observation of space and Earth. For this reason, the Czech Republic would welcome and invite other member states to join a common framework at the COPUOS level for both institutional but also commercial satellite operators considering the initiative of the conference room paper: “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society”.

The Czech Republic is of the opinion that this is a way how to reconcile the common interests of strategic and commercial activities with scientific activities, which have an indispensable role in the field of space activities.

The Czech Republic also strongly supports the maintenance of the single-issue Agenda Item “General Exchange of views on Dark and Quiet Sky” for the next 61st STSC Session in 2024 and the establishment of a new Expert group as a first step towards a common approach at the COPUOS level. The Czech Republic also stands ready to actively support the work of such an expert group.

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your kind attention.