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**Committee on the Peaceful
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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Submission by the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic, taking into account its location and size, considers international cooperation to be the most efficient way how to support space science, space technology development and industrial cooperation. The Czech Republic has been inherently focusing its efforts towards its active involvement in the European structures, especially within EU, ESA, EUMETSAT and ESO.


The Czech Republic has had a long tradition in utilization of space for scientific purposes. Mostly thanks to international cooperation, several scientific payloads and sensors were developed, as well as small scientific satellites. These activities, taking into account the different economic and social context, were implemented mostly in scientific institutions with small industrial involvement and little economic consideration or sustainability.

Regarding the national space policy the Government of the Czech Republic approved on October 27, 2014 the National Space Plan for the period 2014-2019 (NSP 2014). NSP 2014 is based on the achievements of the National Space Plan from 2010 and again represents a strategy upon which decision-makers should decide on future involvement of the Czech Republic in space activities. NSP 2014 acknowledges the economic, social, political and security potential of the space activities and their importance for the national economy. The main objective of the NSP 2014 is to increase the international competitiveness and the technological and innovative level of the Czech Republic.

The National Space Plan for the period 2014-2019 can be downloaded at www.czechspaceportal.cz. (Direct link: www.czechspaceportal.cz/files/files/NKP_2014/Graphic_ver/NSP_2014_2019_ENG.pdf.)

Regarding the bilateral cooperation in space Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls have recently signed the Treaty

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between the Czech Republic and France related to cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. It is the first international bilateral space Treaty which the Czech Republic concluded with an international partner. The main objective of that Treaty is to strengthen and flourish mutual cooperation between Czech and French institutions, scientists and enterprises in space.

Concerning the further development of the space activities, the Czech Republic shares the ESA objectives, i.e. in pushing the frontiers of knowledge, increasing the competitiveness of industry and opening the wide range of opportunities of using the space activities in various domains of human activities. The major part of our space activities is closely linked with ESA and EU.

The Czech Republic became the 18th ESA Member State in November 2008. The Czech Republic participates in ESA optional programmes which concern especially Earth Observation, Navigation and Telecommunications, Launchers, Space Exploration, SSA and also general space technology development programmes.

The Czech Republic is an EU Member State since 2004 and in this respect it participates in EU space programmes Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus.

Concerning the organizational framework of the Czech space activities, it should be noted that there has been no national space agency established in the Czech Republic so far. However, the Czech Government decided in 2011 that the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic was going to coordinate all space activities in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Transport is also responsible for Czech membership in ESA, EU Space Policy and EU programmes as Galileo, implementation of the National Space Plan and space applications. Other ministries are represented on high level in the Minister of Transport's Coordination Council for Space Activities.

As an important achievement in the field of European and international cooperation the Czech Republic considers decision of EU Member States from December 2010 to relocate European GNSS Agency (GSA) to Prague which happened in September 2012. GSA is responsible especially for security and marketing of EGNOS and Galileo nowadays and in near future also for implementation of the programmes and exploitation of the systems.

The Czech Republic cooperates with GSA very closely especially in establishing a suitable environment for GNSS application development. Some international events focused on GNSS and the use of space based technologies were held in the Czech Republic in 2014. The international conference European Space Solutions 2014, bringing together business and the public-sector with users and developers of space-based solutions of the Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus programmes, was held in Prague in June 2014. The conference with attendance of more than 800 national and international experts and stakeholders, organized by GSA and EC and hosted by the Czech Republic, was also accompanied by the European Space Expo, the travelling exhibition showing the benefits of the space-based technologies and applications for the general public. The European Space Expo, located in the centre of Prague, attracted more than 30,000 visitors. As the side events of the European Space Solutions 2014, the 11th international Galileo User Forum Workshop, dedicated to the use of GNSS services for E-mobility and Smart Grids, and the 3rd National Copernicus User Forum were held in Prague with success.

Moreover, the 9th Meeting of the International Committee on GNSS took place in Prague in November 2014.

Regarding the international cooperation in the field of Space debris mitigation the Compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations has been developed as a contribution of Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Nowadays the Compendium is maintained by the Office of Outer Space Affairs with its goal to inform States of the current instruments and measures that have been implemented by States and international organizations, and to assist those who wish to enact or develop similar standards in relation to this important topic. The compendium can be found at www.unoosa.org/oosa/es/COPUOS/Legal/debris/index.html.

Concerning the further development and involvement of national Space debris mitigation capabilities, the Czech Republic entered the Space Surveillance and Tracking segment of the Space Situational Awareness programme of the European Space Agency in December 2014.
