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### **Panel III: The use of space for Europe's Security**

#### **Introductory speech: Space for Security – the role of the EU**

##### **Executive summary**

50 years of human activity in space has made the modern society increasingly dependent on space-based infrastructure. It is today impossible to envisage a proper functioning of areas such as communication and transport without the support of space based infrastructure, and security is emerging as another such area.

The EU faces evolving threats which are increasingly diverse and unpredictable. Due to its cross-national dimension, the EU is taking more responsibility for various aspects of security, within as well as outside Europe. However, security will be of even higher importance to the EU in the years to come.

The Space Council has identified Space and Security as one of four new priority areas for the European Space policy, highlighting the important contribution of space to the ESDP and to the security of the European citizens.

When addressing space and security, it has to be recalled that the demarcation line between civil security and defence related security is increasingly blurred, and we must strive to meet both civil and defence related needs. This necessitates including a broad range of stakeholders in the discussions. The structured dialogue for coordination of space, security and defence related activities is a useful platform for this.

Sustained supply of high-resolution imagery and user oriented services turning information into knowledge are areas that the EU might look into in the future. This should as far as possible be done in the framework of GMES. Another area is Space Situational Awareness

With regard to implementation, Space and Security must continue to be a joint effort between primarily the EU, ESA and our respective Member States, but the EU must have the courage to take the lead in this process.

The Lisbon Treaty provides a very strong legal basis for the EU's involvement in space matters, and gives us the opportunity to establish a European Space Programme. This might turn out to be a very useful tool to live up to our ambitions.