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Political challenges of creating the EU Space Policy

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Abstract
This article examines the political challenges of creating the EU Space Policy, based on the analysis of official EU documents and information provided by national space agencies of EU Member States. Taking into account the main EU bodies and agencies responsible for creating the EU Space Policy and delving into the EU–ESA relations, the author focuses on examining differences in approaches to the development of space policy among EU Member States. This study indicates that the existence of various approaches to space is the biggest political challenge, but also the biggest opportunity in the process of creation of EU Space Policy. Issues like climate change, environment, defence, space economy and competitiveness are the main themes appearing among the EU Member States' space policies that are impacting the EU Space Policy. Another important question is the potential impact of unpredictable shifts in the U.S.–EU relations on the long-term planning and implementation of various NASA-funded projects, as cuts in such funding may cause delays or require changes to ongoing activities. The European Union as an emerging space actor needs to balance its partnerships well and to adapt a multidisciplinary approach to the creation of the EU Space Policy. Furthermore, in order to become a relevant agent in space, the EU needs to utilise all members' space capabilities.
Keywords: EU Space Policy, European Union (EU), political challenges, international cooperation, European Space Agency (ESA), Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Polityczne wyzwania związane z kreowaniem polityki kosmicznej Unii Europejskiej

Streszczenie
Artykuł przedstawia wyniki badania politycznych wyzwań związanych z tworzeniem polityki kosmicznej UE w oparciu o analizę oficjalnych dokumentów Unii Europejskiej oraz informacji

udostępnionych przez krajowe agencje kosmiczne państw członkowskich UE. Biorąc pod uwagę główne organy i agencje UE odpowiedzialne za kształtowanie polityki kosmicznej Unii oraz analizując relacje między UE a Europejską Agencją Kosmiczną, autorka skupia się na identyfikacji różnic w podejściach do rozwoju polityki kosmicznej wśród państw członkowskich UE. Badanie wskazuje, że istnienie zróżnicowanych podejść do eksploracji kosmosu stanowi największe wyzwanie polityczne, ale jednocześnie największą szansę w procesie kształtowania polityki kosmicznej UE. Takie kwestie, jak zmiana klimatu, środowisko, obronność, gospodarka kosmiczna i konkurencyjność – to są główne tematy pojawiające się w politykach kosmicznych państw członkowskich UE, które mają wpływ na kształtowanie polityki kosmicznej Unii Europejskiej. Kolejną ważną kwestią są nieprzewidywalne zmiany w stosunkach między UE a USA, które mają wpływ na długoterminowe planowanie i realizację projektów finansowanych przez NASA, a ograniczenie tych środków może spowodować opóźnienia lub zmiany w bieżących działaniach. Unia Europejska, jako wschodzący aktor w dziedzinie przestrzeni kosmicznej, musi odpowiednio równoważyć swoje partnerstwa oraz przyjąć multidyscyplinarne podejście do kształtowania unijnej polityki kosmicznej. Ponadto, aby stać się znaczącym podmiotem w przestrzeni kosmicznej, UE musi wykorzystać potencjał kosmiczny wszystkich państw członkowskich.
Słowa kluczowe: polityka kosmiczna UE, Unia Europejska (UE), wyzwania polityczne, międzynarodowa współpraca, Europejska Agencja Kosmiczna (ESA), Wspólna Polityka Bezpieczeństwa i Obrony (WPBiO)

On 10 March 2023, the European Commission and the High Representative jointly presented, for the first time, the *EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence* (see: European Commission 2023; European Commission, High Representative… 2023). This document named 5 most important focus areas of the EU Space Policy. Regarding the political dimension of this strategy, the chapter *Partnering for responsible behaviours in outer space* will be a point of reference for the author in this article. From a technological perspective and with the focus on hybrid threats, this strategy was analysed by J.Reis (2024), that is why I will highlight the political dimension of it. First and foremost, the strategy underlines that the EU will focus on promoting responsible behaviour in outer space among states through multilateral diplomacy. This strategy indicates the United States as a strategic partner that the EU wants to have even closer ties with. This document was presented in 2023; however, at the beginning of 2026 the perspective on whether the EU can or should rely on the USA's support in the space domain has changed significantly. Furthermore, the EU seeks to cooperate with like-minded states to enhance security and promote responsible behaviour in outer space. It is a priority for the EU to strengthen cooperation with NATO and to engage with the United Nations. By publishing the Space Strategy, the European Union marks its goal and capacity to become a global space power.

Additionally, the question of space exploration became an important item in the international agenda because of geopolitical tensions. Following Donald Trump's reelection and turbulent involvement of Elon Musk in the new administration, Europe needs to strengthen its strategic autonomy. This technological independence has been underlined by the European Commission in the *Joint White Paper for European Defence*

Readiness 2030 that was presented on 19 March 2025 (see: European Commission, High Representative… 2025). The space sector was listed as a crucial domain, in which the EU can help Ukraine, especially EU space assets and satellites that are ensuring Ukraine's defence capability are considered crucial in the current geopolitical context. It is not surprising that the Commission emphasised the importance of space assets in the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. A few days before publishing the *Joint White Paper*, Elon Musk on the portal X threatened to terminate Ukraine's access to the Starlink System, which enables communication and internet access making it a necessary tool for defence. The shift in the U.S. policy became one of the biggest political challenges in creating EU Space Policy. How the space policy can be further developed amid uncertainty regarding the allies' position, remains a critical question. On the other side of the globe, powers like Russia or China are also joining the space race. Russia is planning to build its own independent space station until 2033, and China announced the multi-year plan for a different mission to search for extraterrestrial life. Those ambitious projects are only the beginning, and outer space is only one to explore. Moreover, China and Russia are involved in initiatives related to the International Space Station, in which the European Space Agency, working alongside the EU, also participates. The geopolitical situation is dynamic, and there is a need to analyse thoroughly if the European Union is ready for all challenges to come. Fortunately, there is some unanimity regarding the space exploration. It is obvious that it is needed, and the European Union has to act now to have a powerful position on the international arena between space powers (Słomczyńska 2017). Taking into account positive perception of space exploration, it is possible to push the EU's space activities even further thanks to the agreement between the EU Member States that space-based data and space exploration is the agenda of the future (European Commission 2026b).

The aim of this research is to investigate the question: what are the political challenges in creating the EU Space Policy? It is important to analyse the political side of this EU policy since it has not been thoroughly studied; until now, the technological dimension has been highlighted the most. Additionally, given that the modern global order has been destabilised by multiple events such as the situation in Ukraine and tariffs introduced by President Trump, the political science's perspective on EU Space Policy could facilitate better planning and execution of this policy.

EU institutions and agencies responsible for the EU Space Policy

The multidisciplinary nature of space policy creation demands the collaboration of different EU institutions and agencies. Crucial for the EU's space activities is the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (see: EUSPA 2026). This EU agency is responsible for monitoring space systems like *Galileo* or *Copernicus*, and it supports all of the EU policies that are pursuing space-based initiatives. EUSPA published the Single Programming Document (SPD) for the years 2025–2027 (see: EUSPA 2024) stating operational security and development of *Galileo* and the *European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service*

(EGNOS) and ensuring the security of programmes like *Copernicus*, the *European Union Governmental Satellite Communications* (EU GOVSATCOM), *Space Situational Awareness* (SSA), and *Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite* (IRIS) as their multiannual objectives. As the last one core task, the SPD indicated carrying out all activities connected with the Public Regulated Service (PRS) within *Galileo*. Furthermore, there is also the European External Action Service, which is executing the EU Space Policy by engaging in space diplomacy and the European Defence Agency that executes the tasks related to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Furthermore, as space policy intersects with foreign affairs, it also involves the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the EU's Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs. Moreover, there is also a unit in the European Commission called the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) that ensures that EUSPA's activities are being implemented in accordance with the EU common policies (see: European Commission 2026a).

Finally, since the EU Space Law is currently in development (see: Evroux 2026), we need the European Union to act quickly. The space policy has to be updated now, the technology is developing so fast, and the issue of space policy is a relatively new one. Without existing coherent regulations the European Union faces significant strategic and regulatory challenges. Additionally, the creation and rebranding of the space policy involves so many institutions and agencies, making the process even more difficult. On 25 June 2025, the European Commission published a proposal for the *EU Space Act* (see: European Commission 2025b). It came after the delay, at first it was supposed to be published at the end of 2024. Unfortunately, because of the creation of the new Commission this project was set aback. Later on the indicated date was 17 June 2025, and finally on 25 June 2025 the proposal appeared. The *EU Space Act* is based on three pillars: safety, resilience and sustainability. The need to harmonise and standardise regulations for the single market is being recognised as a top priority for the EU Space Policy. The emphasis is also put on ensuring safer orbits and space services. Giving that space is a critical domain for future development, the EU will focus on expanding its horizon and building a greener space economy. Once again, the issue of sustainability comes into play. The *EU Space Act* aims also at protecting satellites and limiting the generation of new space debris. Those 3 pillars and indicated goals can be found in the space policies of particular EU Member States. This will be explored later in this article. At this moment the *EU Space Act* will undergo the ordinary legislative procedure, which means it will be revised and negotiated by the European Parliament and the Council.

Research methodology

The topic of space policy is rarely analysed by political scientists due to its technological implications related to scientific capabilities (Słomczyńska 2017). Therefore, the author of this article utilised qualitative methods to study EU Space Policy and its political challenges. A range of sources (including books, scientific articles, EU reports, websites and other documents) was used to identify those challenges. The oldest sources that were

used in this research were from 2016 and included the *Space Strategy for Europe* (see: European Commission 2016). Data was collected from various databases, including JSTOR, *Google Scholar* and EUR-Lex. This article focuses on the current political challenges, and the research scope covers events until the end of January 2026. The research gap that the author wants to fill includes political challenges and different implications of geopolitical situations that influence the creation of the current EU Space Policy. In addition, it is important to mention that, as a political scientist, the author perceives the EU Space Policy through social sciences' lens that may cause limitations to the research. However, such approach does not diminish the author's findings, it rather offers another perspective for analysing the EU Space Policy that will contribute to the better understanding of its creation by the European Union's institutions and agencies. This article aims at introducing a new angle to the discussion regarding the EU Space Policy that will complement the existing research on the technological aspects of this EU policy. For the purpose of this article the author will use the definition of "political" described as "of or relating to the state, government, the body politic, public administration, policy-making, etc" (Collins English Dictionary 2014) and "challenge" defined as "obstacle, problem, difficult situation" that emerged from the political or geopolitical context and needs to be solved in the process of policy-making.

Cooperation of the European Union and the European Space Agency

At first glance, the fact that not all the EU members are part of the European Space Agency (ESA) may cause concerns; however, it is not a significant impediment. Currently, ESA has already established different types of cooperation with all the EU Member States: 20 of the EU states have already become full members of ESA, 3 of them have the status of the European Cooperating State (ECS), and the final 4 are Associate Members. *Table 1* presents information concerning the status of individual EU Member States in ESA.

Table 1: The status of the EU Member States in the European Space Agency.

Members of ESA	European Cooperating States	General Cooperation Agreement	Associate Members
Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands,Poland, Portugal,Romania, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia	Bulgaria Croatia Malta	none	Cyprus* Latvia Lithuania Slovakia

Note: *On the 17th March 2026 the Republic of Cyprus officially became the Associate Member of the European Space Agency. This information was added after the completion of this article due to its importance for the topic.
Source: the author's own elaboration based on website of The European Space Agency (WWWa,b,c).

The last EU state to become a full member of ESA was Slovenia, which attained this status on 1 January 2025. The relation between the EU and ESA is regulated. Separately, individual EU Member States have agreements with ESA, thereby further strengthening cooperation. Regarding the legal basis, on which the EU and ESA are cooperating, the most important is the *Financial Framework Partnership Agreement* (FFPA) that has been recently renewed in 2021. The FFPA indicates all the responsibilities and tasks of all the parties involved. Moreover, it states that the EU will invest in ESA about 9 billion euros in the years 2021–2027 (see: The European Space Agency WWWc). In recent years, the EU has demonstrated a significantly increased interest in ESA activities. Moreover, the EU Member States have been actively strengthening their cooperation, as illustrated, for example, by Slovenia's attainment of full membership status and the fact that EU Member States can engage in cooperation with ESA at different levels.

Differences in approaches to the development of space policy among EU Member States

27 Member States of the European Union implies 27 different approaches to the topic. The challenge that arises with all the EU common policies is the problem of a united stance on the issue. Most of the Member States have their own national space policy with their own goals. Additionally, each Member State has its own vision of how the EU Space Policy should be developed. It is crucial to mention that EU Space Policy is a relatively new one and the challenges that come with it are evolving rapidly. Relatively recently, the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU was guided by the motto "Security, Europe!", and security is one of the first aspects that comes to mind when considering the priorities of space policy. Therefore, the military and defence dimensions of space can be found in many policies of EU Member States. The strongest emphasis on this use of space has been presented by France. For Paris the duality of space technologies, meaning using space for civil and military purposes, is a key to the safety of the European Union. A similar vision is shared by Italy. Moreover, Poland also supports the expansion of national and EU capabilities in the domain of security and defence. Another pillar that is fundamental for many EU Member States is using the space-based data and space technologies to protect the environment and to fight against climate change. The pioneer of this approach is Austria with a view to use space technologies in order to implement the objectives of the *European Green Deal* alongside the EU's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. According to Cyprus and Germany, the space sector is crucial to put into action the *European Green Deal*. There is also a need for sustainability regarding space activities. This approach is supported by Austria, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Portugal.

Another area of space policy that is highlighted is the economic aspect. For example, there is an emphasis on supporting national companies and start-ups in the space industry. Furthermore, the national governments want to create good conditions for such enterprises to unleash their potential and introduce them to the European space domain. This is particularly important for Denmark, Greece, Sweden and Latvia. From

another perspective, smaller states like Malta are aiming at establishing in their countries technological hubs in the space sector to increase their relevance in the European Space industry. Malta would like to serve as the setup of satellite and space mining companies. For Lithuania, the goal is to be the hub for small satellite manufacturing. Slovenia also plans to create a space start-up hub and recognises the commercial potential of space. Moreover, Austria, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Slovenia, Malta also see space as a potential of the commercial market, and they support the idea of commercialisation of space. Another goal linked to developing the space policy is improving the quality of life of citizens. This is definitely a priority for the Maltese government. They are focused on boosting the reliability and quality of services provided for their people. For Cyprus, space-based data and the development of the space policy sector should be beneficial for the citizens and improve their daily life. Another question is regarding space traffic management. On 15 February 2022 the Commission published joint communication *An EU Approach for Space Traffic Management – An EU contribution addressing a global challenge* (see: European Commission, High Representative... 2022). Safety, security and sustainability are the leading values to follow during the use of space. In the conclusions of this document, there is a mention that the EU should advocate for its position on the international forums with an aim to create stability for the European space industry in order to boost its competitiveness. For example, France is a big supporter of consolidating a common EU approach to space traffic management (STM). Moreover Luxembourg, Poland and Romania are mentioning the STM in their national space strategies. The last feature of the space policy is unanimously agreed upon between all Member States. It is the research and development of space technologies. All states are recognising the importance of space and how prospective this sector is. From Austria, through Poland to Sweden, researchers and scientists are working hard to boost R&D in the space domain in their respective states. These interdisciplinary studies are covering such topics as: space-based climate research (Denmark), research for security and defence purposes (Ireland) and research on local level in order to boost businesses (Latvia). Generally, there are few priorities in space policy that are recognised and pursued by EU Member States at both the national and European levels. Nevertheless, each EU Member State perceives the space domain as the policy of the future that should be carefully developed (European Union WWW).

Nevertheless, there is a disproportion between different EU Member States' space capabilities. There are some EU states such as Belgium or Croatia that do not have a national space agency. On the other hand, we have countries like France or Austria who have a long history of involvement in space. Of particular interest was the fact that states without national space agencies are still seeking to engage in space-related activities, but they are doing it at the European and international level. For example, in Czechia it is the role of the Ministry of Transport to coordinate the state's space activities (Nesládek 2025). Nevertheless, the Czech capital city – Prague is hosting the headquarters of the EU Agency for Space Programme (EUSPA). This indicates that even smaller states with only recent involvement in the space domain are showing interest in contributing to the creation of the EU Space Policy.

Unpredictable shift of allies' policies on the case of the U.S.–EU relations

Since 20 January 2025, the world leaders have faced persistent uncertainty due to the drastically shifting politics of Donald Trump. Instability in the relations with the current U.S. administration has pushed the EU into even a greater need for European strategic autonomy. This concept has existed for several years, but somehow in the last year the EU leaders increasingly underline why this strategic autonomy is required, and why we need it as soon as possible. Of course, the constant shifts of policies introduced by Donald Trump are influencing the U.S.–EU cooperation in the space domain. First of all, the famous cut of funding to various projects and collaborations also affected initiatives, in which the EU is involved. On 2 May 2025, The White House Office of Management and Budget released the President's proposal for the 2026 fiscal budget (see: The White House 2025b). In this document it is indicated that NASA will focus now on placing the first human on Mars and will put emphasis on human space exploration. At the same time, NASA projects related to research, STEM, space science and technologies will go through budget cuts. In the proposal the only domain of NASA activities that will have an increase of funding is the human space exploration sector that will receive USD 647 million. On the other hand, the amount of cuts in other NASA's activities will reach a total of USD 6.967 billion. The initiatives that will most likely suffer losses are the ones that ESA and the EU are part of. For example, the joint science programmes in danger are: LISA – the first space-based observatory dedicated to studying gravitational waves, EnVision – the mission to observe Venus from its inner core and Lunar Gateway – the project of the first international space station to orbit the Moon. These projects implemented by ESA are partially dependent on NASA's funding. Therefore, with the proposed cuts, these essential for the EU programmes will likely face delays or redesign. This development poses a significant threat to the EU Space Policy. The implementation of planned projects becomes problematic if suddenly the source of funding, meaning in this example NASA's support, is no longer on the expected level. Moreover, space research and exploration is the domain that requires a great budget through long periods of time in order to give results. Another question arises: how should the EU plan its space policy, where it cannot rely on the USA as it did before? The answer may be hidden in the concept of strategic autonomy. However, how fast can the EU reach this level of autonomy that will enable it to plan space activities far into the future? These are the dilemmas that the EU leaders are facing right now.

The tensions between the USA and the EU are fluctuating throughout the first year of Donald Trump's second presidency. After the introduction of the *EU Space Act*, in November 2025 the U.S. administration formally submitted its comments to the *EU Space Act* to the EU Commission. Trump's administration expressed its deep concerns over proposed new regulations. The U.S. government is worried that the new regulatory measures introduced for the operation of the EU single market for space activities will reduce innovation and investment. Moreover, it could pose a threat to fair competition for the USA, the EU

and its Member States in the commercial aspect of space cooperation. Furthermore, the USA is opposing the introduction of non-tariff barriers that could negatively affect all non-EU space-services companies that want to operate in the EU. The creation of the proposed *EU Space Act* came in the middle of the U.S.–EU tariff dispute. Therefore, for the author the regulations proposed in the Act are also a response for the commercial battle with the USA. The *EU Space Act* protects the EU companies while making it more difficult by adding more measures for the non-EU entities, which is a clear sign that the EU is trying to boost its strategic autonomy also in the space sector. The commercial aspect in the U.S.–EU space cooperation takes the lead. However, space is not the only sector, in which financial gain is the priority for the USA. President Trump in his second term is focusing on profit-making, and it seems like he is governing a country the same way he would run a business. In the comments made by the USA to the *EU Space Act*, there is reference to the *U.S.–EU Framework on an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade* that was announced on 21 August 2025 in the U.S.–EU Joint Statement (see: The White House 2025a). The U.S. government claims that by introducing the regulatory measures in the *EU Space Act*, the EU is going against the point of this agreement that expresses the need to address the non-tariff barriers that might restrain the bilateral trade relations.

Even though the *13th U.S.–EU Space Dialogue* did happen in September 2025, the collaboration in the space sector is still marked by uncertainty (see: European Commission 2025a). Further budget cuts for NASA programmes might lead to delays or reducing the scope of various EU–ESA projects that are dependent on different scales on U.S. funding. On the other hand, the EU Commission did not formally respond to the comments made by the USA to the *EU Space Act*. The Act is still undergoing the ordinary legislative procedure and it will take time before it will become a part of official EU legislation. Nevertheless, U.S.–EU cooperation in the space sector is marked by a commercial aspect that will be the focus of further discussion.

Discussion

The results of this study demonstrate that political aspects and obstacles are as important as technological capabilities in the process of creating the EU Space Policy. Therefore, all the political challenges have to be carefully reviewed. First of all, we need to note that each Member State has its own vision and priorities in the space domain. This unveiled a problem that is universal for every EU policy – how to accommodate all the national interests that are sometimes different from the EU interests as a whole. Moreover, investments in space and strategy for space exploration need long-term planning and continuous funding in order to deliver the expected results. Hence, we encounter yet another challenge. Cooperation in space between the EU and other actors has to be stable and built on trust. Regarding the EU and ESA partnership, there is no doubt that this collaboration is solid since the parties are in constant dialogue and many projects like *Galileo, IRIS2* and *Copernicus* are being implemented. Unfortunately, another

important partnership for the EU in the space sector is the collaboration with the United States that is being challenged by the second term of President Donald Trump. His business approach to global politics, which results in introducing tariffs and focusing mostly on profit, negatively influences U.S.–EU space cooperation. By planning to cut funds for NASA, President Trump put a lot of EU projects under threat of being paused or reduced. The question then arises: how to plan the EU Space Policy that needs long-term vision, when one of the biggest allies cannot be fully trusted? It is possible that President Trump may change his statement on the partnership with the EU in the space domain, which poses several risks especially regarding the EU's projects in space that receive financing support from NASA. The answer might be in the concept of strategic autonomy. Each EU Member State has different technological capabilities. France has a spot for launching rockets into space (French Guyana), Lithuania is expanding its satellite start-ups, and Austria is ready to use space-based data to fight climate change. Each EU Member State has different potential in the space sector, therefore, the EU needs to learn how to distribute tasks and learn how to benefit from the uniqueness of EU system that combine all Member States' space capabilities.

Further research reveals that the EU needs to expand its space diplomacy. This new area is not fully explored by the EU and it would be beneficial to give more attention. The space market became not only a topic of trade or business, but it is also a highly political issue. Therefore, the EU should involve more of its diplomats to focus solely on this issue. It is crucial to act now, because in a few years it might be too late to start the efforts since all the space programmes require many years to be created and implemented. Nevertheless, the commercial aspect is extremely crucial to be analysed in the future. Through an in-depth analysis, the author discovered that this business sector has significant potential and will become a crucial topic of discussion for all EU partners in space cooperation.

The political science perspective on EU Space Policy is a subject that has not been yet explored. There are a lot of studies that research EU's technological capabilities, business deals, space companies and even articles about mental health of astronauts. That is why this article matters: it brings a new angle to this dynamic EU policy. The space race is not only a technological challenge, but a political one. The current international relations are influencing the EU space activities and it is high time to analyse the political implications in order to create a feasible EU Space Policy. If the EU focuses solely on the economic aspect, there is a danger of overlooking the political circumstances and jeopardising its space projects.

The author of this article has a background in political science; therefore, the political perspective on EU Space Policy was analysed. It is a crucial context that is lacking in the process of creating this EU policy. However, it also requires technological expertise in order to have a full picture of challenges in creating EU Space Policy. In addition, at the moment of writing this article the first EU Space Law is still undergoing the legislative procedure. Hence, the author cannot analyse the content of this act and add it to the research. After the possible adoption of this document, there will be a need to have

a legal perspective on the matter. The EU Space Policy would benefit from a more multidisciplinary approach that takes all aspects into consideration. For now, the technological and commercial dimensions are mostly explored, however it is crucial to have a political and legal perspective as well in order to create a comprehensive EU Space Policy that will establish the EU's position as an important actor in the space sector.

Conclusions

There are a few significant challenges from a political perspective to the creation of the EU Space Policy. The first one is definitely handling the cooperation between the EU Member States well. With most states getting involved in the space-based market and boosting space research, we have to ensure close cooperation. Otherwise we could create our own space race within the EU that would be counterproductive for the Union. The European Union understands that becoming involved in the space sector, the global space economy, and other activities is necessary to remain a relevant player on the international stage in the coming years. By launching the *EU Space Programme* in 2021 (see: Regulation (EU) 2021/696) and presenting the first *European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence* in 2023, the EU expressed its readiness to face the challenges related to space affairs (European Commission WWW). Furthermore, another political challenge that the EU faces while creating its space policy is its complexity. There is a need for a multidisciplinary approach while developing the space policy. Scientists, politicians, diplomats, businessmen and researchers from across disciplines need to work together to ensure that EU Space Policy is feasible. The same applies to EU institutions and agencies that are involved in creating, executing and monitoring the EU Space Policy that fall under the *Common Foreign and Security Policy* (CFSP), *Common Security and Defence Policy* (CSDP) and even EU single internal market. Because of its multidimensionality, the EU Space Policy is not easy to navigate since the internal interests of the EU are different whether we are going to discuss the business aspect of space activities, its military capabilities or the use of space-data to fight climate change. Each Member State contributes its share to the EU Space Policy. The diversity of approaches within the EU to the creation of space policy is another political challenge, but also a huge opportunity for gaining strategic autonomy in the space domain. Furthermore, the EU Space Policy has far broader implications than previously anticipated and will gain even more importance in the coming years.

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