



For an ambitious and sustainable Programme for new European Satellites

*MEPs send a strong signal with the adoption of their position
on the Secure Connectivity Programme*



After the landslide adoption of the position on the Secure Connectivity Programme in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), the Rapporteur GRUDLER (Renew) and Shadow Rapporteurs SALINI (EPP), HRISTOV (S&D), NIENAB (Greens/EFA) and TOŠENOVSKÝ (ECR) are ready for a swift negotiation regarding this new Programme.

"Satellite technologies are key to ensure the EU strategic autonomy. The Russian attack on Ukraine reminded us of this in a very clear way.

By adopting our position on the new European 'Secure Connectivity' satellites, **we are sending a strong message: the European Parliament fully supports the development of new EU capacities in satellite telecommunications, as well as other key services for our EU space policy.**

On one hand, these new satellites will be **useful for government bodies and EU agencies**, from firefighters to EU delegations around the world. Indeed, highly secure EU communications are needed more than ever.

On the other hand, **this Programme shall provide to European citizens an enhanced access to quality and affordable Internet**, whether in Europe or around the world.

As Rapporteur and Shadows Rapporteurs, **we are convinced that the whole European space ecosystem should be involved**, with particular attention paid to SMEs and start-ups.

Furthermore, **we insist on the sustainability of these new satellites: the Secure Connectivity needs to be an example of space and environmental sustainability.** In relation to space debris, to light pollution and carbon footprints, **this new Programme shall set new standards for satellite constellations.**

Less than 7 months after its introduction by the European Commission, **the European Parliament is now ready to engage in negotiations with the Council** for an ambitious Programme, that should strongly reinforce the European strategic autonomy.

If the ITRE Committee mandate for inter-institutional negotiations is not challenged, **the European Parliament position will be considered as formally adopted next week during the plenary session in Strasbourg.**

After Copernicus (Earth Observation), Galileo/EGNOS (Satellite Navigation), and Space Situational Awareness, **it is high time for the European Union to build the 4th pillar of its space policy. We are committed to make it a success."**

**Christophe GRUDLER (Renew Europe), Massimiliano SALINI (EPP),
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Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs on the Secure Connectivity Programme