



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Protection of satellites and space infrastructures

The Committee of Permanent Representatives¹ today endorsed an agreement between the Hellenic Presidency of the Council and European Parliament representatives with a view to establishing a European surveillance and tracking service aimed at enhancing the security of space infrastructures and the safety of satellite operations by reducing collision risks and helping to monitor space debris ([5841/14](#) + [COR1](#)).

Space infrastructures are increasingly threatened by collision risks due to the growing population of satellites and the amount of space debris. In order to mitigate the risk of collision it is necessary to identify and monitor satellites and space debris, catalogue their positions, and track their movements when a potential risk of collision has been identified so that satellite operators can be alerted to move their satellites. This activity is known as space surveillance and tracking (SST)².

As operational SST services at European level do not exist yet, the EU has a strong interest in building a space situational awareness capability to ensure the protection of space and ground infrastructure it owns.

The SST support framework will foster the networking of national SST assets to provide SST services. The provision of SST services will benefit all public and private operators of space-based infrastructures.

The SST support framework will be complementary to related activities carried out under Union programmes such as "*Horizon 2020*", "*Copernicus*" and "*Galileo*".

¹ The Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) of the governments of the 28 EU member states is responsible for preparing the work of the Council.

² http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_type=251&lang=en&item_id=6463

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