

Minister for Higher Education and Science



Thierry Breton
Commissioner for Internal Market
European Commission

Dear Commissioner Thierry Breton

Please accept my warmest congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner for Internal Market and Services and in that capacity responsible for Space.

Denmark strongly supports the European cooperation on space matters based primarily on Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS. The new integrated EU Space Programme will provide an excellent outset for further work in this area.

The EU should continue to reap the benefits from our large investments in Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS, by reaching out to the user communities and industrial capacities. Space plays a key role in a number of important policy areas, in particular environmental and climate action.

We are approaching a full operational era of European space infrastructure. Now, the challenge is to fully capitalise from our activities in space while also preparing for the next generation of European Space infrastructure. We need to explore user needs and to keep developing relevant services. In different areas of society, there is great potential in integrating space based solutions, thereby disrupting traditional business models.

A way to leap forward is to support the evolution of ecosystems and create platforms for multi-stakeholder collaboration. This goes for the use of all services based on space components – navigation, observation and communication.

In the proposal for the new EU Space Programme, we have agreed on an objective to implement measures for mitigating space debris within EU space activities. With this commitment, the EU demonstrates ambition and leadership. I strongly support that EU takes action and raise our strategic ambitions, in order for sustainability to become a natural part of the European space policy

In the end, the consequence of not taking action on issues such as space debris mitigation might be the inability to use important orbits in space. This will have a deep negative impact for all of us. In this respect, the EU has a unique chance to show the worldwide space community how to act in a sustainable and responsible way in space.

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2016 saw the introduction of Denmark's first ever Space Law (the Outer Space Act) which was followed up by an Executive Order on the requirements in connection with approval of activities in outer space. Denmark is fully prepared and ready for further actions in this area.

I look forward to working actively with you and the new Commission with the aim of creating a prosperous and competitive European space sector that contributes to green transition and sustainability.

Yours sincerely



Ane Halsboe-Jørgensen

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