



*Al Ministro
delle Imprese e del Made in Italy*

Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy

Uffici diretta collaborazione del Ministro

Struttura: **MiSE2020_UDCM_SM**

REGISTRO UFFICIALE

Prot. n. **0023064 - 01/10/2026 - USCITA**

Re: INVITATION TO THE ESA INTERMEDIATE MINISTERIAL MEETING 2026 (IMM26)

Dear Minister,

It is my great honour to invite you to the European Space Agency Intermediate Ministerial Meeting 2026 (IMM26), to be held in Rome, Italy, on 15 December 2026.

When we last convened for the ESA Council at Ministerial Level in Bremen in November 2025, we jointly agreed to reconvene should the evolving geopolitical context and developments in international exploration programmes demand it. Since then, changes in the geopolitical context have clearly underlined the need for a programmatic and political reassessment of Europe's ambitions in space.

ESA Member, Associate and Cooperating States have been making their preparations with that aim in mind since spring of this year through the ESA Council Working Group, and our joint Ministers call on 8 July. A few days ago, at the International Space Summit, Ministers endorsed "A Call to Boost European Space Exploration", calling on the European Space Agency to prepare, without delay, the programmatic options required to translate Europe's space ambitions into concrete and sustained action towards Low Earth Orbit, the Moon and Mars.

It will be our decision in Rome on 15 December to give clear political guidance to the ESA Director General on the level of these ambitions and the corresponding programme to subsequently put before the Council meeting at ministerial level in 2028.

Ms Liina Vahtras
Minister of Economic Affairs and Industry
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Republic of Estonia



No budgetary commitment will be entered into at IMM26 in Rome; neither will it be the occasion for a technical programmatic review. Instead, it will be the opportunity for Europe to make history by stepping up its human and robotic space exploration efforts to include autonomous access to space.

Such a commitment will strengthen Europe's autonomy and leadership in space exploration.

Europe possesses all the ingredients needed to raise its ambition in space exploration: world-class science, technological excellence, entrepreneurial drive and trusted international partnerships. The challenge before us is to convert these strengths into strategic European capabilities and competitive technologies. The time has come to define the role Europe wishes to play and to endorse a strategy that matches our ambitions with decisive action.

I look forward to welcoming you to Rome and to working together to ensure that Europe plays a leading role in space.

Yours sincerely,

Adolfo Urso
Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy
Delegated Authority to Space and Aerospace Policies

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Urso', written in a cursive style.