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Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Harju 11
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DG/340

Paris, 25 July 2025

AMENDMENT TO THE 2017 LAUNCHERS EXPLOITATION DECLARATION

Dear Mr Liias,

As you know, the governments of the States which had finalised, on 4 December 2017, the Declaration by certain European Governments on the Launchers Exploitation Phase of Ariane, Vega, and Soyuz from the Guiana Space Centre (the “2017 Declaration”) finalised the Amendment thereto (the “Amendment”) on 10 July 2025.

I would like to congratulate you on this achievement, which is an important milestone for the revision of the legal framework for the exploitation of ESA-developed launchers, resulting from the Resolution on present and future European space transportation, adopted by the ESA Council in Seville on 6 November 2023 (ESA/C/CCCXIX/Res.1 (Final)).

The original of the Amendment will be deposited in the archives of the European Space Agency, and a certified copy transmitted to all Parties, as per paragraph 6 of the Amendment. The certified copy of the Amendment is attached to the present letter as Annex I.

The entry into force of the 2017 Declaration, as amended by the Amendment, is governed by Section V.1, which provides:

“This Declaration shall enter into force on the date when two thirds of the Parties to the 2007 Declaration have notified the Director General of ESA in writing of their acceptance to become a Party to this Declaration. It is understood that, in order to ensure that the Declaration may only enter into force as amended on 10 July 2025:

- (a) Parties to the 2007 Declaration having notified the Director General of ESA of their acceptance of the 2017 Declaration prior to the finalisation of the Amendment shall notify the Director General separately of their acceptance of the Amendment;
- (b) Parties to the 2007 Declaration that have not notified the Director General of ESA of their acceptance of the 2017 Declaration prior to the finalisation of the

Amendment may only notify the Director General of their acceptance of the Declaration as amended on 10 July 2025”.

Considering that, to-date, Estonia has not notified the Director General of its acceptance of the 2017 Declaration, Estonia is invited to notify the Director General of its acceptance of the 2017 Declaration as amended by the Amendment. A template letter of notification is attached to the present letter for your convenience as Annex II.

I look forward to receiving such notification at the earliest opportunity in order to ensure the timely entry into force of the 2017 Declaration as amended by the Amendment.

Your sincerely,

Josef Aschbacher

Enc.

Annex I: Certified Copy of the Amendment to the 2017 Declaration

Annex II: Template letter of notification of acceptance