



POSTAL  
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DATE Berlin, 15 July 2025

SUBJECT **Invitation to the 2025 ESA Council meeting at ministerial level**

Dear Minister, dear colleague,

it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the European Space Agency Council meeting at ministerial level scheduled to take place on 26 and 27 November 2025 in Bremen.

These last three years, during which Germany was responsible for chairing the ESA Council at ministerial level, have been marked both by major new challenges for Europe's space sector and profound international change, which we have addressed together within ESA with judgement and proportion. We intend to use this year's Council meeting at ministerial level to plot the future course of European space in a way that ensures that Europe continues to play a leading role in the global space sector and remains a reliable international partner.

As you know, this year ESA Member States will join together to celebrate 50 years of ESA achievements, acknowledging as they do so their shared commitment to continuously develop ESA and the European space industry, ensuring both are fit for the future. The ESA transformation we have jointly initiated is now making great strides, having already resulted in measurable improvements and a speeding up of processes. On the programmatic side, important decisions must be taken for the future. We will, notably through the European Launcher Challenge and LEO Cargo Return Service, be making important investments in service-based approaches, as called for in the Seville Resolution. As Member States we also must contribute to ESA's transformation. In my role as Chair of the ESA Council at ministerial level, I would therefore like to invite you to enable an effective allocation of funds through a transparent subscription process.

We now have the opportunity to shape this era of change in line with ESA's Strategy 2040 by taking ambitious decisions at this 2025 Ministerial Council, further strengthening European leadership and competitiveness in space by promoting innovation, sustainability and excellence, while supporting Europe's independence and resilience through targeted actions.

Space plays a crucial role in economic growth, technological development, scientific progress and inspires future generations, thereby contributing to making Europe fit for the future.

Bremen, long a centre of aerospace excellence both in Germany and in Europe, offers the ideal setting for this landmark meeting. The city is home to a thriving aerospace industry and research landscape, underscoring Germany's commitment to European cooperation in space. The decisions taken in Bremen will set the course for ESA programmes in the years to come and require a shared ambition and determination.

I look forward to welcoming you to Bremen to help shape Europe's future in space. Your participation will be crucial to the success of this Council meeting at ministerial level and to achieving our shared goal of strengthening and developing space as a strategic economic asset for Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: Dorothee Bär

Cc: Josef Aschbacher, ESA Director General