



Berlin, 7th May 2024

Dear Minister,

In my capacity as chair of the ESA Council (Ministerial level), I wish to invite you to the 325th meeting of the ESA council at Ministerial level which will be held in Brussels on 23 May 2024 (details in the enclosed programme) as part of the Eleventh Space Council.

This ESA Council meeting will offer the opportunity to adopt the ESA Resolution on "Strengthening Europe's Competitiveness through Space". The ESA Council meeting at Ministerial level will be preceded by a meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council, where the same text is scheduled to be adopted by EU Member States, in the format of EU Council Conclusions. Both meetings will be followed by the joint meeting of the ESA and EU Councils, bringing together Ministers in charge of space activities representing Member and Associated/Cooperating States of the European Space Agency as well as Member States of the European Union. Separate invitations will be issued for both the EU Competitiveness Council meeting as well as the joint meeting of the ESA and EU Councils.

I am hoping you will be able to join us for the social events taking place on 22nd May in the afternoon, including a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Framework Agreement between the European Community - which has been succeeded by the European Union - and the European Space Agency which entered into force in 2004.

For the programme and any practical arrangements, please refer to the enclosed agendas for the 325th ESA Council at Ministerial Level and the Eleventh Space Council as well as the Practical Arrangements Note issued by the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council. The ESA Cabinet of the Director General (<u>cabinet@esa.int</u>) remains available to answer any queries you and your staff may have.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Robert Habeck

Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Germany