**Presidency Summary of the Informal Videoconference of Ministers Responsible for Space**

**Brussels, 29 May 2020**

**Executive summary**

On 29 May 2020, the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union organised an informal videoconference of EU ministers responsible for space. The objective was to discuss how to enlarge the impact of space-based solutions in our society, environment and economy. Ministers also shared ideas on how the use of space data and services in a wide range of EU and MS sectoral policies can be encouraged.

Investments in space generate, besides economic impacts, a range of direct and indirect social benefits by contributing to policies and management decisions. Earth observation, navigation, telecommunications and space sciences have multiple, far-reaching and measurable impacts, but also many intangible positive externalities, such as raising awareness on the fragility of our ecosystem, that require the utmost protection, care and international cooperation.

During the informal videoconference, ministers were invited to express their views and ideas around the two questions provided in the Presidency background note - a policy debate on the "Evaluation of space programmes - towards measuring the real societal impact".

**Main messages**

* Many Member States acknowledged that, in the recovery of EU economy and societies from COVID-19 crisis, EU space-based technologies can bring solutions. The space sector addresses key challenges Europe is facing today: depletion of natural resources, climate change and pandemic mitigation.
* Ministers concurred with the view that space is an economic growth enabler and that space provides valuable information and data to effect information-led policy and actions.
* Many Member States shared their visions and ideas on how the space sector can benefit and contribute to achieving the European Green Deal objectives, digital transition, as well as how space can bring new solutions to improve the EU’s industrial resilience and strategic autonomy.
* Ministers also expressed support for measures and enhanced coordination at EU level to support the space sector industries, SMEs and start-ups.
* Ministers highlighted the importance of synergies with other policy areas and non-space sectors.
* Some Member States outlined that the EU space programmes have been mobilised notably to mitigate the impact of the crisis and to provide support to public authorities. The infrastructure for critical data, services and technological solutions is needed to provide evidence-based information to decision-makers and ensure more efficient policy-making.
* Ministers emphasized the significance of education, training and skills development, especially in the context of future jobs, when building a resilient society capable of addressing global challenges.

\*\*\*