

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL TIES: ESPI AT THE IAC IN MILANO

The increased engagement of Europe with the globally growing eco-system of space is crucial to secure its future as a global space power and trusted partner in an increasingly multi-polar world.

This year's International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Milan provided an excellent platform for ESPI to further strengthen its mandate to promote European Space Policy globally. With almost half of the more than 11.000 IAC participants coming from European countries whose space agencies or governments are members of ESPI and with delegates from 120 countries worldwide attending, the Congress gave an example of a strong Europe, partner to the world.

For the first time, ESPI hosted its own booth, enabling more direct efforts to facilitate informed dialogue and to maintain existing and build new relationships with members, partners and other key stakeholders. The IAC provided the platform for several excellent interactions and events with decision-makers and institutions at the highest level. ESPI welcomed the President of POLSA, as the Polish Space Agency joined ESPI as its 21st member. With Poland joining, ESPI further strengthens its membership from the Central and Eastern European region. Poland will be taking over the presidency of the Council of the European Union, and is poised to elevate security & defence as an integral pillar of Europe's approach to space policy. During the IAC, Poland was also selected as the host the IAC in 2027.



Marking an important step in establishing deeper cooperation in space security policy with the rapidly emerging Asian powerhouse, ESPI strengthened its international cooperation in South Korea, signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Academy of Space and Security (KASS).

The development of closer ties with the Latin American region was at the focus of further high-level meetings with the Head of CONAE, the Argentinian Space Agency and the Head of AEB, the Brazilian Space Agency, discussing possible collaborative undertakings.

Exploring the nature and behaviour of private capital in the space sector across different continents was subject of a panel with ESPI taking the stage together with the European Centre for Space Economy and Commerce (ECSECO), discussing "Capital Across Continents: Private Investment Dynamics in the Space Sector". The panel was a first in exploring the nature and behaviour of private capital in the space sector across different continents, including Africa. The panel discussed Japan's approach to unlocking corporate venture capital, the US strategy of giving clear direction and market clarity to large institutional investors, and China's model of fostering intra-regional competition to create market champions.



The question on what are the upcoming topics in space was debated at a Global Networking Forum event organised by ESPI together with the Aerospace Centre for Space Policy and Strategy, providing a think tank perspective from the US, Japan, Latin America and Europe.

A highlight of the IAC was the announcement of Gabriella Arrigo as the incoming President of the IAF. Gabriella has been the ASI representative to ESPI and a key driver behind the ASI-ESPI Agreement in 2023. We are confident that her IAF presidency and her active role at ESPI will provide for new synergies and further leverage ESPI's contribution on the international stage.

ESPI's engagement at IAC underlined the increasing role of the institute's international engagement to support diplomacy, cooperation and consensus-building; to help shaping inter-governmental, multilateral and European dialogue; to build understanding and trust; to provide perspectives in support to decision-making bodies of ESPI members, national governments, European institutions and international organisations.

Yours sincerely,

Hermann Ludwig Moeller
Director of ESPI

