THREE IN FOUR EUROPEANS AND CANADIANS SAY SPACE MATTERS TO SOCIETY

Initial findings from a survey of 15,500 citizens point to strong public backing for space activities, and clear ideas about what comes next

Vienna, 20 October 2026 – Today, the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) publishes the initial findings of a public survey, "*The Views of European and Canadian Citizens on Space Activities*". Implemented by Ipsos bva and with support from the European Space Agency (ESA), the survey gathered the views of 15,500 citizens in 24 countries over a period of a month.

Space is seen as important

Three in four respondents (75%) consider space activities important to society. Space exploration is viewed positively by 78%, and 63% believe that investment in space contributes to economic growth.

Where citizens see the next breakthrough

Respondents were asked what major breakthrough Europe and Canada should achieve in space over the next 20 years. Their answers fell into three main areas:

- Human exploration and sustained presence, including a working scientific community on the Moon
- Earth benefits, resources and sustainability, such as improved climate monitoring and new sources of sustainable energy
- Discovery and science, including the discovery of new forms of extraterrestrial life

On the future of the International Space Station, which is expected to reach the end of its service life around 2030. 75% want a future, where Europe has a human space exploration, with 48% favouring a European-led space station.

"*These first results show that citizens see space as important to society, and that they look to it for answers on Earth as well as for discovery beyond it*," said H. Ludwig Moeller, Director of ESPI at ESPI's 20th Annual Conference.

ESPI will publish a full analysis of the survey results by the end of 2026.

About ESPI

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) was founded in 2003, and is the leading European think tank for space, based in Vienna, Austria. Since 2025, ESPI has been granted the status of Quasi-International Organisation. ESPI is supported by its 23 member organisations, consisting of European institutional actors, national space agencies and corporate members. ESPI is also assisted by an Advisory Council, composed of internationally recognised experts including former ministers, journalists, industry executives and an astronaut.

ESPI media contact:

Juliet Hannay

Communications Officer, ESPI

Juliet.hannay@espi.eu · +436601741209