



EUTELSAT, item 5

STATEMENT FROM THE EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE SIXTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS)

Distinguished Chair Distinguished Delegates,

The European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation, or EUTELSAT IGO, is an intergovernmental organisation based in Paris comprising 49 Member-States.

It is my honour to report on the state of the organisation and its activities over the past year.

I. Relations with EUTELSAT Member-States

The EUTELSAT Assembly of Parties takes place every 2 years. In March 2021, the attending 36 Member States and guests from other Intergovernmental Organizations, active in Space and Telecommunications fields as well as the international satellite operator Eutelsat Communications S.A. participated in the 42nd meeting of the Assembly of Parties which was held online. During the opening ceremony the speakers agreed that satellite-based solutions will continue to play a major role in reducing the global digital divide thus contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as supporting the development of the commercial market for the public benefit.

The Assembly of Parties re-appointed me for a mandate of four years as Head of the Organisation until 1 July 2025 and appointed for a two-year mandate, an Advisory Committee consisting of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Turkey.

II. Supervisory role

One of the key roles of EUTELSAT IGO is to ensure that the satellite operator, Eutelsat S.A, a French commercial company respects the commitments it made to the EUTELSAT Member States when the assets and operations of the intergovernmental organisation were transferred to the company in 2001. It is obliged to respect four Basic Principles of: public service/universal service obligations, pan-European coverage by the satellite system, non-discrimination and fair competition. The Assembly of Parties reviewed information from the Company and my report as *Censeur*, or a Non-Voting Member of the Boards of Directors of the Eutelsat Group, concluding that the Company, will be in a position to continue to fulfil its obligations to the Organisation in the medium term.

III. Participation in the activities of key International Organisations

- UN COPUOS

Since 2008 EUTELSAT IGO is a permanent Observer of COPUOS and in that role has participated on a regular basis in meetings of COPUOS and its Subcommittees. At its last ordinary meeting the EUTELSAT Assembly of Parties received information report on the work and activity of the COPUOS and noted the commitment of the Organisation towards its mission thus advocating for the importance of space technologies in support of the 2030 UN agenda.

- ITU

EUTELSAT IGO continues to follow the developments at ITU. We are Sector members of all ITU sectors, participating in its activities and actively supporting ITU mission.

- European Union regulatory environment and space policy

EUTELSAT IGO has continued to actively follow and analyse regulatory changes in European countries in which Eutelsat S.A. operates with the review of the developments of the European Union Space Policy and other relevant areas.

IV. Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

As the Executive Secretary I continue to be actively involved as a Commissioner in the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, an advocacy expert group jointly run by ITU and UNESCO, which acts as a catalyst to meeting the 2025 global Targets aiming at expanding broadband infrastructure and internet access in support of “Connecting the other half of the world” and the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization EUTELSAT highly values the role played by COPUOS and its Subcommittees and intends to remain a committed and a supporting observer.

This concludes my intervention, Thank you for your attention.