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EVOLUTION OF CNES STATUS FROM 1961 TO NOW

Abstract

CNES, the French space agency, has been created 51 years ago to propose and implement the government's space policy. C.N.E.S' Founding Fathers were also those who supported, at the same time, in 1962, the constitution of two European space organizations, the ESRO and the ELDO, the precursors of the present ESA. Their purpose, still running nowadays, were to provide France with an autonomous body to develop a strong domestic space capacity in the field of science, industry and space applications altogether with initiating an ambitious cooperation policy with other space agencies at the international and European level..

The French Space Operation Act (FSOA) of June 2008, 3rd provides CNES with new responsibilities in the regulatory domain, more specifically in designing and controlling the implementation of the French Technical Regulations for Space Operations, without changing its former status of 1961 and legal mission as technical center and space agencies.

At the same time the European Union was embodied with a competence in space policy and programs by the new article 189 of the TFUE. This competence is to be shared with those of E.U. States Members or their national space agencies.

In this new context, the present paper propose to analyze details of the evolution of the CNES' governance and mission from 1961 to now, especially on relations between CNES and the French government, governance, parliamentary control, relation with the private sector, FSOA monitoring and CNES responsibilities among European organizations ESA and UE and international cooperation related to space.