

35th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
Interactive Presentations - 35th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND  
ECONOMICS (IPB)

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FRENCH VIEWS AND ACTIONS IN SPACE

**Abstract**

This paper will outline the history of space security in France and the country's space capabilities, recent developments after the 2017 election of French president Emmanuel Macron, and comparisons to the space strategy of other prominent European countries. European space strategy is entering a new era, with a focus on strengthening space capabilities specifically in SSA and security from space threats. This report consists of analysis of the strategic implications of the apparent increase in French and broader European interest in space security, and it provides key policy takeaways and considerations for the future trends of space, including space security, in Europe. By using open source data, this paper will analyze why France, more than other European powers, has seemingly prioritized space and space security publicly.

To conclude, the paper will analyze areas of agreement and disagreement in Europe regarding space security activities including comparisons between individual countries, the European Union, NATO, and ESA. Perhaps the most significant takeaway in the advancement of French space policy is that the French expect to be taken at their word. The greatest difference between France and other major actors when it comes to space policy is the French willingness to speak openly and candidly about specific capabilities and its military plans and posture in space. In addition to its stated policies and space strategy, France is making a concerted effort to build a space capital in Toulouse where commercial industry and government programs can thrive.