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EUROPE'S AMBITION IN SPACE EXPLORATION (WORKING TITLE)

Abstract

Following the Matosinhos declaration (Nov. 2021) and the Toulouse Space Summit (Feb 2022), and in line with the vision set out in ESA Director General's Agenda 2025, a reflection was launched on the role of Europe in future space exploration and human spaceflight endeavours.

The paper will provide the background, recent events and a status on such reflection as its ties with overall European space policy, the ESA decision making process and its programmatic portfolio.

It will present the potential geo-political, economic and societal impact of a new ambition for Europe in human spaceflight and will present the work of the High-Level Advisory Group on Human and Robotic Space Exploration for Europe as well as the genesis and status of ESA's own " Inspirator" for human spaceflight.

Finally the paper will also address the importance of a potential European autonomy for and within cooperation for the international landscape of human spaceflight and exploration.