

**Question for written answer E-004130/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: EU stance on space

The EU is currently lagging behind the United States and China in the space race. Europe does not possess sufficient launch capacity, particularly for heavy payload satellites. One of the main reasons for this shortfall is the EU's lack of reusable rocket technology.

As a consequence, European satellites have to be launched from US territory. However, in principle, the EU could make use of US rockets to launch satellites from European territory, for example from French Guiana.

In a recent interview broadcast on German television, the Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), Josef Aschbacher, stated that he prefers to support only European launch companies. However, until these companies are capable of meeting EU requirements, he intends to rely on the services of Elon Musk's company, Space X, to launch EU satellites from US territory.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission confirm if it is in contact with the ESA regarding this matter?
2. Why is the ESA not supporting US operators seeking to carry out launches from EU territory?

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