

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004372/25
to the Commission
Georgiana Teodorescu (ECR)
(5 November 2025)**

Subject: Space race

The EU is lagging behind in the space race with the United States and China. The EU does not have the launch capacity, especially for heavy load satellites. One reason for that is the lack of reusable rockets in the EU.

As a result, European satellites rely on launches from US territory. Instead, the EU could use US launchers from EU territory, such as for sites located in French Guyana, Romania or Italy.

1. Is the Commission in contact with the European Space Agency with regard to EU rockets using US launchers while being launched from the EU?
2. Will the European Space Agency and the Commission allow US companies to launch from European soil?

Submitted: 5.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(17 December 2025)**

Rockets and launchers are the same thing, and the terms can be used interchangeably. In addition, no United States (US) rockets are operated directly by the EU or a European public institution.

Any US company intending to launch its rocket from the territory of a Member State would need to address itself to the Member State in question in order to obtain a licence to launch.

Neither the Commission nor the European Space Agency (ESA) are the competent authorities to allow US or any other company to perform launch services from European territory.

The Commission is fully engaged in maintaining and fostering the EU's autonomous, reliable and cost-effective access to space, as indicated in the EU Space Programme Regulation ⁽¹⁾.

Access to space is a key enabler and indispensable element in the overall space value chain: without access, there is no autonomous EU space policy.

The EU ambition is to facilitate the aggregation of launch service demand for the needs of the European programme, to foster research and innovation in technology, and to support European critical and strategic test and launch infrastructure, without prejudice to ESA's activities.

The Commission is regularly engaging with ESA to ensure alignment of ESA's activities with the strategic goals of the EU Space Programme.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/696/oj/eng>.