

**LONDON INSTITUTE OF SPACE POLICY AND LAW**

**ISPL REPORT**

**NATIONAL SPACE ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:  
ITALY, LUXEMBOURG AND THE UK**

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## **Abbreviations**

ASI	Italian Space Agency
ASI Statute	Statute of the Italian Space Agency
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CNR	National Research Council
COMINT	Inter-ministerial Committee for Space and Aerospace-related Policies
DSPSN	Domestic Space Policy Strategic Document
DVSS	Strategic Vision Document for Space
ENAC	Italian Civil Aviation Authority
ESA	European Space Agency
ESRIC	European Space Resources Innovation Centre
EU	European Union
ISPL	London Institute of Space Policy and Law
JAXA	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
LIST	Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology
LSA	Luxembourg Space Agency
MIUR	Ministry of Education, University and Research
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NSpC	National Space Council
OSA	Outer Space Act 1968
SA Catapult	Satellite Applications Catapult
SES	Société Européenne des Satellites
SIA	Space Industry Act 2018
STFC	Science and Technology Facilities Council
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TSA	Triennial Plan of Activities
UK	United Kingdom
UKRI	United Kingdom Research and Innovation
UKSA	UK Space Agency
UNCOPUOS	United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
US	United States

## **Executive Summary**

This Preliminary Report provides an assessment of the basic space organisational arrangements in Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom (UK), each of which is in the process of making changes to its space governance. Particular focus is on these countries' space agencies.

Italy's current basic space governance is based on several regulations and political documents. The primary institutions in Italy's space organisational arrangement are the Inter-ministerial Committee for Space and Aerospace-related Policies (COMINT) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI), with several ministries and other domestic institutions taking on specific space related responsibilities. ASI engages with COMINT, the Ministry of Education, University and Research that is ASI's supervisory body, and other ministries and institutions as appropriate. COMINT's remit can be summarised as supporting the Council of Ministers in developing national space and aerospace policies and strategies, coordinating space and aerospace activities across government, and facilitating Italy's international and ASI's activities. Among its many tasks, ASI assists COMINT in achieving its functions, and promotes, develops, conducts and disseminates Italian space and aerospace-related science and technology research and engages in relevant operational activities.

Luxembourg's current space governance is based on several regulations passed between 2017 and 2020. The primary institutions in Luxembourg's space organisational arrangement are the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA), a set of ministries, the Directorate of Defence and the Institute of Regulations. The LSA is an agency within the Ministry of the Economy, which is at the centre of Luxembourg space governance, in charge of domestic and European space policy, coordination with the European Space Agency, and space regulation. Overseen by the Ministry of the Economy, the LSA does not directly conduct space exploration or technology development but concentrates on fostering the promotion of the private space industry and the commercial exploitation and use of space resources. It acts as a focal point for both public and private actors.

In the UK civil space policy and strategy is determined at the Cabinet level by the National Space Council (NSpC). In formulating policy and strategy the NSpC is advised by the UK Space Agency (UKSA), an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Currently UKSA is both the regulator of space activities and promoter of the space sector. It is also the lead body for the negotiation and establishment of international partnerships. The role of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for UK spaceflight is expected to grow in the near future. It may be therefore necessary to review the UK arrangement once the transfer to the CAA is fully in force and clarified.

## **1 Report outline**

This Preliminary Report by the London Institute of Space Policy and Law (ISPL) presents the basic space organisational arrangements in each of Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom (UK), with a particular focus on these countries' space agencies.

In short, Section 2 outlines the research objective and approach. Section 3 introduces the basic space organisational arrangement in Italy. Section 4 discusses the same in the case of Luxembourg. Finally, Section 5 offers a comprehensive overview of the basic space organisational arrangement in the UK.

## **2 Research objective and approach**

Cooperation between countries is fundamental to the principles governing space activities. Such cooperation is most effective and efficient where all parties have a clear understanding of each other's organisational arrangements governing their space engagement.

With growing relevance of and dependence on space systems for many aspects of national security and socioeconomic well-being, it is no surprise that various countries consider entering more and more intergovernmental space partnerships. A notable recent event evidencing this is the signing of the Artemis Accords in October 2020.

Many space agencies and entities currently contemplate promoting partnerships with European space capable countries and their agencies. To facilitate such collaborations and partnerships ISPL is preparing reports on the basic space organisational arrangements in space capable countries, starting with Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. ISPL invites contributions to this repository of information from colleagues at agencies and other institutions and organisations, as a service to the sector.

This Preliminary Report is based on the assessment of relevant legislation, published documents by the governments, space agencies and others involved, as well as interviews with individuals knowledgeable about the selected countries' organisational arrangements.

**For a copy of the full Report contact: [Publications@space-institute.org](mailto:Publications@space-institute.org)**