

Press Release

Kartheiser MEP Calls for Stronger European Investment in Space Exploration at Commissioner Hearing

Brussels, 5 November 2024

During a key hearing this morning in Brussels, Luxembourg Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Fernand Kartheiser called for increased European investment in space exploration and highlighted the urgency of bolstering the European Union's role in this critical sector.

Mr Kartheiser's statements were directed toward Bulgarian Commissioner-designate Ekaterina Zaharieva, who has been proposed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to oversee the EU's research and innovation policies.

Mr Kartheiser underscored Europe's lagging position in space exploration compared to global leaders, including the United States, Russia, China, Japan, and India—all of which have accomplished lunar landings. "Contrary to some major countries, the European Union has not yet achieved a lunar landing," he remarked, emphasizing the need for Europe to assert itself in space exploration to enhance its strategic autonomy, economic competitiveness, and scientific influence. To achieve that goal, EU policies should better support the goals defined in the framework of the European Space Agency.

"Significant investment in this sector is not only essential to drive innovation but also to ensure that Europe remains a player in the rapidly evolving space landscape," Mr Kartheiser stated. He urged Zaharieva to outline her vision for how the EU's research and innovation initiatives could help realise these ambitious goals.

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