



PLAN FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATING STATES (PECS)

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European Space Agency

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The Plan for European Co-operating States (ECS) was set up by ESA Council in 2001 to better assist the integration of the new EU Member States (EU-12) into Space activities, paving the way for their possible future seamless integration in the Agency.

Objectives of the PECS include: (1) the development of cooperation between ECS scientific and applications user communities; (2) create and strengthen industrial expertise to follow a fair and equitable industrial participation in future Agency programmes after accession to the ESA Convention.



Overview of European Participating States



ECS is a status granted to European States in order to prepare them for accession to the ESA Convention. Currently, there are six ECS:

Latvia (2013), Lithuania (2014), Slovakia (2015), Bulgaria (2015) and Cyprus (2016).

Former ECS countries (now ESA Member States) are:

- * Czech Republic signed ECS in November 2003.
- * Hungary signed ECS in April 2003.
- * Romania signed ECS in February 2006.
- * Poland signed ECS in April 2007.
- * Estonia signed ECS in November 2009.

Former ECS country (now ESA Associate States) is: Slovenia (2016)



Latvia: ESA European Cooperating State



The first legal step in the cooperation was the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between Latvia and ESA in 2009.

Then, in 2010, an expert ESA team visited Latvian industries and research institutes in, finding that Latvian entrepreneurs and institutions were ready to be more involved in ESA's activities.



In March 2013, Latvia and ESA signed the European Cooperating State Agreement. PECS Charter was signed on January 2015.

