



Mr. Christian CAMBON, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces
Ms. Françoise DUMAS, Chairwoman of the National Assembly Committee on Defence and Armed Forces
Mr. Laurent LAFON, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Culture, Education and Communication
Mr. Roland LESCURE, Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs
Ms. Sophie PRIMAS, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs
Mr. Bruno STUDER, Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Cultural Affairs and Education

Paris, 6 January 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen Committee Chairpersons,

Dear colleagues,

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union begins in a context with many challenges, in the face of which the Union must consolidate its achievements and persevere in its fight against the pandemic, in the revival of the economy, in the consolidation of its social model and in its assertion as a global driving force in the fight against climate change. At the same time, however, Europe must renew its ways of thinking in order to be at the forefront, in solidarity and autonomy, of the new economy that is emerging.

Naturally, the issues of digital technology and, increasingly, space are at the centre of this economy. The ever-growing field of digital technologies in space (energy management through monitoring global warming, new modes of transport positioning, digitisation of everyday life via connected objects), which is attracting new private stakeholders (New Space) and generating new areas of conflict (arms race and anti-satellite launches, military satellite deployments, espionage) are all economic opportunities and challenges of sovereignty for the Union and the Member States. This is why we felt it was essential to discuss with you the **competitiveness of the European space industry in the face of the**

rise of the new space economy and defence issues, so that you could share with us your vision of the revision of industrial policy and the contribution of European defence.

We also believe that cultural influence, backed by digital tools that are changing practices, is a key condition for making an impact in tomorrow's world. Thus, our second debate will focus on the support that the European Union and the Member States could provide, in synergy, particularly in the digital fields, to the **European cultural industries** so hard hit by the health and economic crises.

The **National Assembly** has chosen to organise its thematic conferences in the French regions, so that you can appreciate their diversity, vitality, and beauty. We are **therefore pleased to invite you on Sunday 6 and Monday 7 February 2022 to Toulouse, the European capital of space and aeronautics**, which was a natural choice as the venue for our meeting.

In accordance with established practice, each parliament may delegate up to four committee chairpersons, or their representatives, to the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you and wish to express to you, Ladies and Gentlemen Committee Chairpersons, our highest consideration.

M. Christian CAMBON

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