Purpose of ESA

“To provide for and promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European states in **space research** and **technology** and their **space applications.**”

Article 2 of ESA Convention
Member States

ESA has 22 Member States: 20 states of the EU (AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IT, GR, HU, IE, LU, NL, PT, PL, RO, SE, UK) plus Norway and Switzerland.

Seven other EU states have Cooperation Agreements with ESA: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. Discussions are ongoing with Croatia.

Canada takes part in some programmes under a long-standing Cooperation Agreement.
Activities

ESA is one of the few space agencies in the world to combine responsibility in nearly all areas of space activity.

* Space science is a Mandatory programme, all Member States contribute to it according to GNP. All other programmes are Optional, funded ‘a la carte’ by Participating States.