



**CHARTER OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE COMPONENTS
COORDINATION**

ESCC 00000

Issue 2	March 2018
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DCR No.	CHANGE DESCRIPTION
1070	Document upissued to incorporate editorial changes per DCR. Document produced in MS Word. A difference in presentation is possible.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Electrical, electronic and electro-mechanical (EEE) components play an essential role in the functional performance, quality, life cycle and costs of space systems. Their standardisation, product specification, development, evaluation, qualification and procurement must be based on a coherent and efficient approach, paying due consideration to present and prospective European space policies and must be commensurate with user needs, market developments and technology trends. The ESCC is established with the objective of harmonising the efforts concerning the various aspects of EEE space components by ESA, European national and international public space organisations, the component manufacturers and the user industries.

The goal of the ESCC is to improve the availability of strategic EEE space components with the required performance and at affordable costs for institutional and commercial space programmes. It is the objective of ESCC to achieve this goal by harmonising the resources and development efforts for space components in the ESA Member States and by providing a single and unified system for the standardisation, product specification, evaluation, qualification and procurement of European EEE space components and for the certification of components and component manufacturers.

2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document defines the objectives and policy, the organisational and managerial structure as well as the documentation architecture of the ESCC. As a Charter, this document also defines the commitments, obligations and undertakings of the Participating Organisations (as defined in Clause 3.1 hereafter) in the ESCC, within the limits of their respective responsibilities. This document further defines the principles and processes for the establishment and implementation of:

- (a) strategic programmes and work plans for research and development in the area of EEE components for space use, which the ESCC recommends its Members to implement in a harmonised fashion, contributing their own resources and following their own procedures;
- (b) policies, techniques and standards for the evaluation, qualification and procurement of EEE space components;
- (c) a unified and single European system for product specifications for EEE space components and for the execution of the corresponding qualification and certification activities.

3 TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATED TERMS

3.1 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The standardised definition of terms as defined in the ECSS Glossary of Terms (Ref. ECSS-P-001, available to all Participating Organisations) shall be applied to all ESCC documents. In addition, internationally agreed terms and definitions shall be used, where feasible.

The following terms and related definitions shall be used within the scope of this Charter:

Members:	ESCC Participating Organisations which meet the criteria set forth in Clause 5.1.1 hereafter
Observers:	ESCC Participating Organisations which respond to the criteria set forth in Clause 5.1.2 hereafter
Participating Organisations:	Organisations which have signed the Founding Act of the ESCC or which have acceded to the terms of this Charter
Users:	European industries using EEE space components
Manufacturers:	European EEE space component manufacturers
Industry:	comprises the component user industries and the component manufacturing industries
Technology Research and Development Programme:	multi-year Research and Development Programme in the area of EEE components technology, harmonised and coordinated by the Components Technology Board

3.2 ABBREVIATED TERMS

The following abbreviated terms are used:

Abbreviation	Meaning
CTB	Components Technology Board
ECSS	European Cooperation for Space Standardisation
EEE	Electrical, Electronic, and Electro-mechanical
EPPL	European Preferred Parts List
ESCC	European Space Components Coordination
ESCIES	European Space Components Information Exchange
IPC	Industrial Policy Committee of the European Space Agency
PSWG	Policy and Standards Working Group
SCSB	Space Components Steering Board

4 OBJECTIVES AND POLICY

4.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the European Space Components Coordination are to:

- (a) improve the availability of strategically important EEE space components, giving preference to European sources offering competitive performance and costs;

- (b) develop and implement, among users, manufacturers and European national and international public space organisations, a harmonised Research and Development Programme for space components, ensuring coherence with other market sectors and cost effectiveness;
- (c) establish an information exchange system with component data provided on a voluntary basis by the Participating Organisations and with access for Industry;
- (d) establish a European reliability system for space components;
- (e) implement a system for rationalising the diversity of components for space use, based on the usage of a European preferred parts list, giving preference to European components offering competitive performance and costs;
- (f) enable the mutual recognition of industrial performance in the various component disciplines, including component engineering, radiation hardness assurance, auditing and inspection (with formal certification where this is appropriate) and to support such recognition by the provision of relevant and regular training opportunities;
- (g) promote component specifications and standards at European level in order to achieve international recognition and to improve the industrial efficiency and the competitiveness of the related products on world markets;
- (h) maintain and improve a common and coherent system of component specifications and standards, including related evaluation and qualification programmes, techniques and quality provisions, in order to meet user needs and in keeping with market trends.

4.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the ESCC to:

- (a) make best use of available resources and expertise of its Members and to avoid duplication of effort;
- (b) foster mutual recognition among its Members;
- (c) improve the efficiency and competitiveness of industry by responding to the needs expressed by the space community, by taking into account the state of the art and by rationalising the variety of products;
- (d) optimise the performance, quality and costs of EEE products by systematically incorporating experience from space projects, research and development programmes, the evolution of other EEE component systems and other relevant sources;
- (e) promote the ESCC and its products in international and world markets.

4.3 LIMITATIONS

- (a) The ESCC relies on the voluntary participation of its Participating Organisations. Representatives of the Participating Organisations, active in one of the ESCC organisational bodies, shall perform such activity at the expense of their employer.
- (b) Contracts let to Industry which are based on the coordinated and harmonised Technology Research and Development Programme shall be implemented by the contract-awarding organisation following its own contractual rules and managerial procedures. However, the contract-awarding organisation shall report to the ESCC on the technical status and achievements of the contract.
- (c) ESA, on behalf of the Members, holds copyrights for all official documentation generated and approved by the ESCC organisational bodies. However, each Member has the right to use, copy and disseminate such documents, free of charge.
- (d) EEE components qualified in accordance with ESCC requirements, as formally adopted by the ESCC Executive, may carry the ESA logo as specified in the corresponding Qualification Certificate.

- (e) All Participating Organisations agree to coordinate within the SCSB any public relations activities that refer to the ESCC. In addition, they shall observe public relations and publications guidelines to be adopted by the SCSB

4.4 LANGUAGE

The official language of the ESCC shall be English.

5 ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 PARTICIPATION

The ESCC is open to participation by all European space component manufacturers, user industries and European national and international public space organisations. Participating Organisations can be Members or Observers. Agreement to work in the interests of the ESCC, to pursue ESCC objectives and policies (as specified in Clauses 4.1 and 4.2) and to follow the rules of procedure, as set out in the ESCC operating documents (as specified in Clause 6), shall be confirmed by all Participating Organisations by means of signature of the Founding Act of the ESCC, or by means of a letter of accession to this Charter (as specified in Clause 5.2).

5.1.1 Members

Members belong to three categories:

- the European space component user industries collectively represented by Eurospace
- the European EEE space component manufacturers
- the European national and international public space organisations.

Members shall support the functioning of the ESCC as defined in Clause 7 hereafter and take part in the consensus and voting processes of the ESCC.

5.1.2 Observers

Observers are those organisations desiring a formal tie with the ESCC enabling them to observe ESCC developments and contribute to some ESCC activities. Observers do not have voting rights in the ESCC, but may indicate their opinion in the decision-making procedures.

Observers are encouraged to participate actively in ESCC activities and to foster ESCC objectives.

5.2 ACCESSION BY NEW ORGANISATIONS

This Charter shall be open to accession to all European space component manufacturers, user industries and European national and international public space organisations interested in the furthering of its objectives. Requests for accession as Member or Observer shall be made in writing to the Director General of ESA, acting as the depository of this Charter, who will in turn inform the SCSB. The SCSB shall decide upon such requests by a simple majority of its Member representatives. Accession shall take effect on the date of a notification to the Director General of ESA that accession to this Charter is confirmed by the SCSB.

5.3 TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION

A Participating Organisation may terminate its participation in the ESCC by a written notification to the Director General of ESA who will in turn inform the SCSB. Termination of participation becomes effective six months after receipt of such notification by the Director General of ESA. The Participating Organisation concerned shall endeavour to minimise the effects of the termination on the ESCC.

5.4 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The ESCC is composed of the following organisational bodies as illustrated in Appendix A hereafter:

- (a) For the harmonisation task
 - Space Components Steering Board
 - ESCC Secretariat
 - Components Technology Board
 - Policy and Standards Working Group
 - Ad hoc Working Groups.
- (b) For the Executive Task
 - ESCC Executive.

5.4.1 The Harmonisation Task

5.4.1.1 *Space Components Steering Board*

The overall responsibility for the ESCC Harmonisation Task resides with the SCSB.

The SCSB is responsible for the implementation of the objectives defined in Clause 4.1, in accordance with the policies laid down in Clause 4.2 and within the limitations defined in Clause 4.3.

In particular, the SCSB is in charge of:

- defining regularly the overall strategy in the area of European EEE space components and for issuing recommendations to be implemented by the Participating Organisations;
- supervising the work of the Components Technology Board (CTB) and of the Policy and Standards Working Group (PSWG) and formally approving their reports, standards, specifications and rules of procedure;
- establishing ad hoc Working Groups for specific tasks with limited duration, approving their terms of reference, membership and reports;
- liaising with the ESCC Executive, by submitting SCSB approved standards, basic and generic specifications, quality control requirements and rules of procedure for review of their compliance with ESA policies, regulations, instructions and rules of procedure and for subsequent formal adoption;
- surveying regularly the progress, status and performance of the work of the ESCC Executive and identifying problem areas;
- reviewing the quality and effectiveness of the ESCC, the Executive and the ESCC Specification System. Implementation of this quality review task will rely upon such techniques as internal auditing of ESCC organisational bodies and of the associated services using performance metrics;
- interfacing with the Product Assurance Level 1 Working Group of ECSS for the drafting of Standards in the ECSS-Q-60 (EEE Components) series and for the ensuing change proposals;

- handling of complaints and appeals generated by the Participating Organisations or by users of the ESCC Specification System;
- organising at regular intervals the European Space Components Conference;
- defining and adopting ESCC public relations and publications guidelines to be followed by all Participating Organisations;
- reviewing, editing and approving common public relations material and publications referring to the activities and products of the ESCC;
- liaising with other EEE component organisations;
- issuing an annual report that summarises the major ESCC activities and achievements during the reporting period of the ESCC. The report shall also provide an outline of the major plans for the future. The report shall be made freely available to all sectors of the European space community and to the IPC;
- keeping the IPC informed, through dedicated reports of any major difficulty encountered in the functioning of the ESCC.

5.4.1.1.1 Composition

The SCSB shall be composed of representatives of the Participating Organisations as follows:

- one representative from each European national and international public space organisation;
- four representatives nominated by Eurospace and representing the interests of the European EEE space component user industries, Eurospace being responsible for ensuring that their consolidated opinions are reflected to the largest possible extent;
- four representatives representing the European EEE space component manufacturers being responsible to ensure that the consolidated opinions of the European EEE space component manufacturers are reflected to the largest possible extent;
- one representative from each Observer organisation who may attend the meetings of the SCSB.

The composition of the SCSB shall be reviewed in order to maintain a balance among the various groups, when, due to the accession to this Charter of new national and international public space organisations their total number exceeds seven.

Representatives shall be deemed to have authority to act in the name and on behalf of the organisation(s) which have nominated them. In case of absence of a Member's representative, such a Member may nominate a deputy who shall have similar authority. Each Member can replace its representative or deputy by giving written notice to the ESCC Technical Secretary.

Representatives are entitled to be assisted by a maximum of two advisors, in which case they shall give written notice of their names to the ESCC Technical Secretary. In addition, the Chairman of the SCSB may, with the prior agreement of the SCSB, invite experts or guests to all or part of the meetings.

5.4.1.1.2 Meetings

The SCSB shall elect a Chairman by a simple majority of the representatives of its Members for a period of two years. The Chairman shall be eligible once for re-election for a term of two years. Representatives having chaired the SCSB during two successive terms of office shall not be eligible for re-election before two years have elapsed following the end of their last term of office. The SCSB shall also elect a Vice-Chairman by a simple majority for a period of up to two years, who shall assume the responsibilities and duties of the Chairman when necessary.

Meetings of the SCSB shall be held twice a year or more frequently as required by its activities. The SCSB shall endeavour to determine the date and location of its next meeting at the end of each of its meetings. An extraordinary meeting may be convened by the Chairman, should circumstances so require, with two weeks prior notice to all representatives who shall also receive a draft agenda.

As a rule, invitations, draft agendas and accompanying documentation shall be sent out four weeks in advance of the meetings of the SCSB.

A simple majority of Members' representatives shall constitute a quorum for any decision to be made by the SCSB.

The SCSB shall strive to reach its decisions by consensus. Formal votes may be taken with a three-quarters majority of the Members' representatives present and voting, except where specified otherwise in this Charter. When a decision is required urgently, the Chairman of the SCSB may propose to proceed to a vote in writing.

The proceedings of the SCSB shall be recorded in minutes of its meetings, to be approved by the SCSB at its next meeting.

The SCSB shall establish its detailed rules of procedure, in line with this Charter, in the "ESCC 10100" document series.

5.4.1.1.3 ESCC Secretariat

The ESCC Secretariat shall be provided by ESA. It shall be headed by the Technical Secretary, designated by the Director General of ESA. The Secretariat shall give general secretarial and administrative support to the Space Components Steering Board, including the provision of permanent liaison and communication links between the SCSB and the other organisational bodies by the Technical Secretary. The Technical Secretary, or designated representative, shall participate, ex officio, in SCSB meetings without voting rights.

In the implementation of its tasks, the ESCC Secretariat shall be responsible for the following:

- general secretarial and administrative tasks, drafting of the minutes of SCSB meetings, administration of documents and correspondence and maintenance of lists of the Participating Organisations and their representatives;
- assistance to the Chairman of the SCSB in the preparation of SCSB meetings, including drafting the agenda and issuing the corresponding invitations for meetings;
- publication and distribution of technical reports, documents, progress reports and minutes of meetings as directed by the SCSB;
- liaison between the SCSB and the other organisational bodies, including the administration of documents generated by them;
- support in the preparation of the annual work plan;
- initiation of activities as authorised by the SCSB;
- registration and preparation of complaints and appeals dossiers for SCSB disposition;
- registration of public relations material and publications submitted by Members for SCSB editing and disposition.

The SCSB shall establish detailed rules concerning the conduct of the Secretariat's activities, in line with this Charter, in the "ESCC 10100" document series, which shall be approved by the SCSB.

5.4.1.2 *Components Technology Board*

The CTB is a body subordinate to the SCSB and charged with the formulation of strategic programmes and work plans for technology research and development in the area of European EEE space components. It harmonises the collectively funded component research, development, evaluation, qualification, standardisation and quality assurance activities. To assist the CTB in its harmonisation activity, the Members shall provide appropriate details of any separate programmes being conducted or proposed with the aim of integrating them into the overall ESCC work plan. Observers are encouraged to provide similar information.

The CTB shall comprise representatives, selected and nominated by the Members from among experts suitably placed to support and contribute to the harmonised and coordinated Technology Research and Development Programme. The nominations shall be confirmed by the SCSB, seeking a balance amongst the appointed representatives approximating to that of the Members. The CTB representatives shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair in the same manner and with the same rules as the SCSB unless otherwise directed by the SCSB. The appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the SCSB.

In the implementation of its tasks, the CTB shall:

- identify strategically important EEE components and, where necessary, propose means of improving their availability at affordable costs;
- identify and evaluate advanced technologies, anticipated to become standard requirements for future space projects, in synergy with other market sectors;
- propose and support initiatives for the advancement and promotion of European assembly and packaging capabilities;
- assess market trends and provide the SCSB with the necessary inputs to enable it to adapt its policies to the component market as it evolves;
- establish plans to make component technology available in time for user projects;
- assess technologies/components, manufacturer capabilities, technology trends, desired quality level and availability at competitive prices;
- define the required component development, evaluation, study and research activities;
- identify the necessary resources, funding, time scales and priorities for the various activities;
- consolidate and update a multi-year strategic plan for space components for SCSB approval;
- plan the implementation by Members, control the status and technical achievements of the approved programme and establish periodic progress reports;
- initiate and integrate in a timely fashion all enabling activities leading to the formal approval or qualification process by the ESCC Executive.

The Chairman of the CTB shall provide the ESCC Secretariat with copies of its proceedings, reports, documents and minutes of meetings. The format, distribution and archiving of these documents shall be taken care of by the ESCC Secretariat.

The Chairman of the CTB, or designated representative, shall participate, *ex officio*, in SCSB meetings without voting rights. Details concerning the objectives, responsibilities and organisation of the Components Technology Board, in line with this Charter, shall be provided in the “ESCC 10400” document series which shall be approved by the SCSB.

5.4.1.3 *Policy and Standards Working Group*

The PSWG is a body subordinate to the SCSB and charged with the preparation and harmonisation of policy, standards and specification proposals for evaluation, qualification and quality control, leading to a coherent and cost-effective ESCC Specification System for the procurement of EEE space components. The PSWG shall comprise representatives, selected and nominated by the Members from among experts in the space component field.

The nominations shall be confirmed by the SCSB, seeking a balance amongst the appointed representatives approximating to that of the Members. The PSWG representatives shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair in the same manner and with the same rules as the SCSB unless otherwise directed by the SCSB. The appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the SCSB.

In the implementation of its tasks, the PSWG shall:

- elaborate and formulate concepts, approaches and initiatives leading to a harmonised and cost-effective policy for European EEE space components and advise the SCSB accordingly;
- prepare policy, standards, basic and generic specifications and procedures for the procurement, reliability and quality assurance, evaluation, qualification and application of components and component technologies for space projects. In particular, this shall include the definition of requirements, rules and procedures for the operation, maintenance and expansion of the ESCC Specification System;
- prepare EEE components standards for acceptance by SCSB and subsequent adoption by ECSS, or by other relevant standardisation organisations;
- initiate and supervise studies and research as requested by the SCSB in support of its activities including the provision of component reliability data;
- monitor application and usage of the ESCC Specification System and advise the SCSB on any necessary evolution regarding policy, assurance concepts, utilisation and on the potential for harmonisation with other EEE component systems;
- elaborate and implement promotional campaigns for the ESCC Specification System;
- assist the CTB in the selection of components for evaluation and qualification;
- supervise the European Space Components Information Exchange System (ESCIES) and the European Preferred Parts List (EPPL);
- propose performance metrics for the ESCC Specification System to support overall quality monitoring tasks of the SCSB.

The Chairman of the PSWG shall provide the ESCC Secretariat with copies of its proceedings, reports, documents and minutes of meetings. The format, distribution and archiving of these documents shall be taken care of by the ESCC Secretariat.

The Chairman of the PSWG, or designated representative, shall participate, *ex officio*, in SCSB meetings without voting rights.

Details concerning the objectives, responsibilities and organisation of the Policy and Standards Working Group, in line with this Charter, shall be provided in the “ESCC 10300” document series which shall be approved by the SCSB.

5.4.1.4 *Ad hoc Working Groups*

For the study and evaluation of specific tasks of limited duration, the SCSB may decide to set up ad hoc working groups. The composition and terms of reference of such working groups shall be approved by the SCSB.

5.4.2 The Executive Task

5.4.2.1 *The ESCC Executive*

The tasks and functions of the ESCC Executive shall be implemented under the authority of ESA, with the active cooperation and support of other European national and international public space organisations which are Members of ESCC. ESA shall harmonise the respective contributions of these organisations with a view to ensuring uniform implementation of the Executive Task in general, and the ESCC Specification System in particular. The main task of the ESCC Executive is the custody and management of the ESCC Specification System for space components and the qualification and certification of components and component manufacturers. ESA shall provide full transparency with regard to the operation of the ESCC Executive through the reporting of progress, status, problems and performance to the SCSB.

The Executive Task shall comprise:

- management and administration, including configuration control, of the ESCC Specification System;
- implementation of the standards, basic and generic specifications, quality controls and rules of procedure approved by the SCSB and adopted by ESA and the European national and international public space organisations. Should adoption not be possible, then the SCSB shall be informed without delay, the full reasons being provided within three months;
- coordination of participation in the Executive Task of the European national and international public space organisations which are Members of the ESCC;
- evaluation and qualification of components, component technologies and component manufacturers;
- issue of certificates for qualified components, component technologies and component manufacturers;
- performance of audits, reviews, non-conformance controls and other quality assurance and quality control activities;
- review and approval of ESCC detail specifications and provision of support and guidance in the preparation of draft specifications;
- providing an (electronic) distribution system for the provision of all available ESCC Specification System documents to users;
- providing the European space sector with all information regarding assessed and qualified components, technologies and component manufacturers;
- advising the CTB, the PSWG and the SCSB on component policies and programmes;
- providing full transparency through reports on status, progress, problems and performance.

The Director General of ESA shall nominate an Executive Manager and a Deputy to perform the Executive Task of the ESCC.

The Manager of the ESCC Executive, or Deputy, shall participate, *ex officio*, in the SCSB meetings without voting rights.

The ESCC Executive Task is supported by component and quality assurance experts, seconded to the Executive on a voluntary basis by its Members. Evaluation and qualification tasks of the Executive may be delegated to European national and international public space organisations who volunteer to fund these tasks, which shall be performed in accordance with the ESCC rules. European national and international public space organisations are encouraged to cooperate among themselves through lending and exchanging of experts for the performance of these tasks. Tracking and supervision of already qualified components and component manufacturers shall remain the responsibility of the organisation which performed the initial qualification.

Details concerning the objectives, responsibilities and organisation of the ESCC Executive, in line with this Charter, shall be provided in the “ESCC 10200” document series which shall be approved by the SCSB.

6 DOCUMENTATION ARCHITECTURE

The overall architecture for the ESCC documentation and numbering system addresses the ESCC policy, organisation of the ESCC as defined in Clause 5, the supporting processes and the system implementation including the ESCC Component Specifications. This architecture is intended to ease the task of organisation, configuration control and retrieval of ESCC documents and related information functions and is illustrated in Appendix B hereafter.

Detailed information concerning the documentation architecture and the preparation and control of ESCC documentation, in line with this Charter, shall be provided in the “ESCC 12000” document series which shall be approved by the SCSB.

7 RESOURCES

Pursuant to the policy defined in Clause 4.2, Members support the functioning of the ESCC and the performance of its activities on a no exchange of funds basis as follows:

- (a) Members shall support the activities of the SCSB and its subordinate bodies by assigning experts to the implementation of the defined tasks, ensuring an equitable participation among all Members. These experts shall work in compliance with the provisions of this Charter and the applicable ESCC operating procedures;
- (b) Travel and mission expenditure of all representatives and experts shall be borne either by the employer organisations or by the authority responsible for the designation;
- (c) Contracts and ad hoc studies, supporting the tasks and activities of the SCSB and its subordinate bodies and not forming part of the harmonised and coordinated Technology Research and Development Programme, shall be jointly funded on a voluntary basis by ESA and the national and international public space organisations, using their own contractual and managerial procedures, while providing full visibility concerning status and technical achievements to all Members;
- (d) the ESCC Technology Research and Development Programme, harmonised and coordinated by the CTB, is funded by ESA and the European national and international public space organisations, through their respective technology research and development programmes, and by industry on the basis of co-funding of component technologies with commercial market potential;
- (e) ESA and the European national and international public space organisations contributing to the Executive tasks described in Clause 5.4.2.1 above shall each bear the costs associated with the discharge of their responsibilities, including subsistence and travel expenses;
- (f) ESA shall bear the costs associated with the tasks and responsibilities of the ESCC Secretariat.

8 LIABILITY

- (a) With respect to the activities undertaken pursuant to this Charter, no Participating Organisation (and respective insurers) shall make any claim whatsoever with respect to injury or death of its own employees or designated representatives, or with respect to damage of any kind to or loss of its own or designated representatives' property directly caused by any other Participating Organisation or any other Participating Organisation's designated representatives, except in the case of wilful misconduct or gross negligence.

- (b) The cross-waiver of liability provided for in paragraph (a) of this Clause shall apply only if the person or entity causing the damage is involved in activities undertaken pursuant to this Charter, and the person, entity, or property damaged is damaged by virtue of its involvement in activities undertaken pursuant to this Charter. The cross-waiver shall apply to all claims for damage, whatever the legal basis for such claims. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Clause, this cross-waiver of liability shall not be applicable to:
- claims between a Participating Organisation and its own related entities or between its own related entities;
 - claims made by a natural person, his/her estate, survivors or subrogees for injury or death of such natural person; or
 - intellectual property claims.
- (c) Nothing in this Charter shall be deemed to constitute, create, give effect to or otherwise recognise a legal personality of any kind in the name of the ESCC. The rights and obligations of the Members shall be limited to those expressly set forth in this Charter, and shall be considered independently of the terms and conditions of their other contractual obligations.

9 ASSIGNMENT

Participating Organisations may transfer their rights and obligations under the terms of this Charter to affiliates upon prior notification to the SCSB, unless the SCSB objects to such assignment by a simple majority of its Members' representatives. For the purpose of this Clause, an affiliate of a Participating Organisation means any entity, which is directly, or indirectly, controlled by a Participating Organisation or which controls, directly or indirectly, such Participating Organisation, in both cases so long as such control subsists.

10 MODIFICATIONS

The SCSB may recommend to Members amendments to this Charter. Any Member that wishes to propose an amendment shall notify the Director General of ESA who shall, in turn, inform all Participating Organisations at least three months before the amendment is discussed by the SCSB. The SCSB shall decide upon amendments to this Charter with a three-quarters majority of all Member representatives. Amendments to this Charter shall come into effect three months after the vote of the SCSB.

The SCSB may decide by a simple majority of all Members' representatives to amend the Annexes to this Charter.

11 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- (a) Participating Organisations shall consult in advance among themselves on any factors that may affect the terms and conditions or the implementation of this Charter and shall strive to resolve amicably any resulting divergences.
- (b) Failing amicable settlement, any dispute between two or more Participating Organisations or between any of them and the ESCC concerning the interpretation or implementation of the terms of this Charter or its Annexes shall first be notified in writing to the Chairman of the SCSB. The SCSB shall endeavour to resolve the matter or to make a recommendation to the said Participating Organisations within three months of the date of such notification.

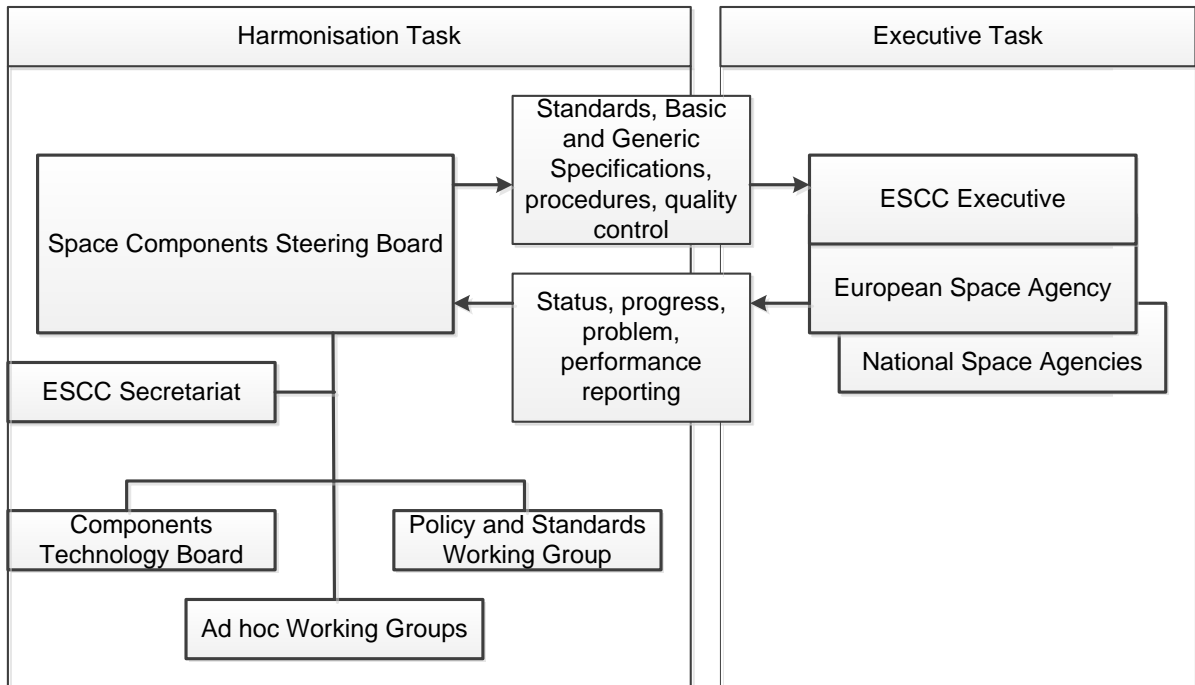
- (c) Failing the settlement of the dispute in accordance with paragraph (b) above, or should the Participating Organisation(s) involved in such dispute fail to comply with the recommendation of the SCSB within three months of the date of its notification, any Participating Organisation party to the dispute may refer the matter for settlement to an Arbitration Tribunal established under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris) by one or more arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules.

12 ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION

This Charter enters into force upon signature by the Signatories of the Founding Act of the ESCC.

The SCSB may decide at any time to terminate the activities of the ESCC by a three-quarters majority of the Members' representatives. Termination by a majority of the Members in accordance with the provisions of Clause 5.3 above shall result in termination of the ESCC. In all cases of termination of the ESCC, the SCSB shall adopt the modalities for the winding down of its activities.

APPENDIX A
Organisation of the European Space Components Coordination (ESCC)



APPENDIX B

European Space Components Coordination (ESCC) Documentation Architecture

