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State visit of the President of Kazakhstan Preparations for space agenda of COP21 CNES and Kazcosmos step up cooperation

Thursday 5 November, in the presence of French President François Hollande and his Kazakh counterpart, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and Talgat Mussabayev, Chairman of Kazcosmos, the aerospace committee at the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan, signed a letter of intent to step up space cooperation between France and Kazakhstan.

This letter of intent aims to develop space cooperation between France and Kazakhstan, pursuant to the intergovernmental agreement signed by the two countries in 2009. It is the result of in-depth consultations between CNES and Kazcosmos in recent months to review possible joint activities.

Three main themes have been identified: first, preparations for the space agenda of the COP21 climate conference, including promoting and implementing the Mexico Declaration on satellite monitoring of phenomena driving climate change and natural disasters; second, exchange of information on new satellite telecommunications solutions, particularly to bridge the digital divide or develop innovative new services; and third, exchanges of scientific experience, especially the use of telescopes in Kazakhstan for astronomy observations.

After the signature, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "This letter of intent signed with Talgat Mussabayev today is the result of a great deal of work that CNES and Kazcosmos have conducted together in recent months and will give new impetus to the intergovernmental agreement signed by France and Kazakhstan in 2009. With the start of the COP21 conference now only weeks away, I would particularly like to thank our Kazakh colleagues for their efforts in advancing climate studies, as demonstrated by their commitment to implementing the Mexico Declaration through the provision of data from their Earth-observation satellites."

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