

ESA's New Earth Missions, EU Space Governance Reforms, and Astronaut Pla

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which two new Earth observation missions has the European Space Agency (ESA) recently selected?

A) Hibidis and SOVA-S

- B) Sentinel-1D and Ariane 6
- C) Copernicus and Galileo
- D) Euclid and PLATO

2. What is the primary focus of the ESA's Hibidis mission?

A) Studying ecosystem and biodiversity health in forests and jungles

- B) Monitoring gravity-waves in the atmosphere
- C) Observing the Sun's activity
- D) Mapping the surface of Venus

3. What is the main objective of the SOVA-S mission, selected by ESA?

A) To monitor gravity-waves in the atmosphere

- B) To study the interaction between Earth's magnetosphere and solar wind
- C) To analyze the composition of exoplanet atmospheres
- D) To map the Earth's oceans

4. What significant reform has the European Commission proposed regarding its space program agency?

A) To transform it into a fully autonomous body with expanded powers

- B) To merge it with NASA
- C) To reduce its budget by 50%
- D) To focus solely on asteroid defense

5. What is the EU's GOVSATCOM programme designed to provide?

A) Encrypted communications for military and government users

- B) High-speed internet for remote areas
- C) Precise global navigation services
- D) Earth observation data for climate research

6. Which upcoming ESA mission is designed to study the atmosphere of known exoplanets?

A) ARIEL

- B) EnVision
- C) Solar Orbiter
- D) Euclid

7. The ESA Provided Institutional Crew (EPIC) project aims to provide European astronauts with more opportunities to visit which space facility before its retirement?

A) The International Space Station (ISS)

B) The Moon

C) Mars

D) The Hubble Space Telescope

8. Which EU initiative provides Earth Observation (EO) data and processing tools, with a focus on lowering barriers for industrial users?

A) Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem

B) Galileo

C) EGNOS

D) IRIS2

9. As of January 2026, how many satellites did the GOVSATCOM programme consist of?

A) Eight

B) Three

C) Twenty

D) Fifty

10. What is the planned launch year for ESA's PLATO space observatory mission?

A) 2026

B) 2023

C) 2031

D) 2020