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Greek professional astronomers, represented by the Hellenic Astronomical Society, are extremely concerned by the foreseen deployment of tenths of thousands of small, low-orbit, telecommunication satellites by a variety of private or public companies, among which SpaceX, OneWeb, Telesat, Roscosmos, Corp and others. The low altitudes will make these swarm of satellites visible at night, contaminating our casual, but most importantly, our professional observations of the night-sky with bright parallel streaks/trails at all latitudes. The effects of such a satellite deployment will not only severely diminish our ability to perform scientific observations of the Cosmos, with the advanced and extremely expensive instruments that have been financed and operated by tax-payers money (for example, with LSST, VST with its 268 Mega Pixels camera and a 1 square degree Field of View, Pan-STARR with its 7 square degree Field of View, etc), but will also hinder our monitoring abilities of Near Earth Objects and asteroids and, thus, our ability to assess potential impact events and warn accordingly the humankind.

Greek professional astronomers join the international appeal, expressed by the International Astronomical Union, IAU, the European Astronomical Society, EAS, and other official organizations, and request that the States act swiftly in order to safeguard professional astronomical observations from the ground, and guarantee the right to observe the night-sky free from artificial polluting sources.

The Governing Council of the Hellenic Astronomical Society

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Panagiotis Patsis, Vice-President, Research Director, Academy of Athens
Konstantinos Gontikakis, Secretary, Senior Researcher, Academy of Athens
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