



# HELLO SPACE

To His Excellency

**Ambassador Mehmet Sait Uyanık**

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Sofia

## HELLO, SPACE | Bulgaria Calling 6.0

Space & STEAM Festival

June 2026

Dear Ambassador Uyanık,

The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria and the National Space & STEAM Cluster, staying true to our motto *“Ahead of the Future”*, have launched the annual Youth Science Festival **HELLO SPACE | Bulgaria Calling** for the sixth consecutive year. The upcoming edition will take place in **June 2026, at Sofia Tech Park**, under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Earlier this year, ahead of the fifth edition of the festival in June 2025, we began conversations with your esteemed Embassy about **Türkiye’s potential participation**. Now, as we prepare for the sixth edition, we would like to continue these discussions well in advance in order to secure **Türkiye’s involvement** and ensure a stronger presence.

We are reaching out to inquire about the possibility of your support in two key areas:

1. Securing the participation of a distinguished astronaut and space expert—most notably, **Alper Gezeravcı**, as our main star guest speaker.
2. Identifying companies, educational organizations, and exhibitors from **Türkiye** to be featured in a dedicated **“Türkiye Corner”**, showcasing the country’s cutting-edge advancements in space technology, education, and research.

At the same time, we remain open and enthusiastic about exploring any additional ideas for partnership that the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye may wish to propose, so that **Türkiye’s contribution** to the festival reflects its growing leadership in innovation and space exploration.

The main goal of the festival is to spark the imagination of children and youth, inspiring them to set their sights on Space, the Moon, Mars, and beyond, and to pursue the path to the Nobel Prize and other top achievements in STEAM fields.

**Over the past five editions, the festival has:**



- Reached **23+ million people online** through traditional, online media and live broadcast on NASA TV
- Welcomed **8,000+ participants in person**
- Hosted **dozens of astronauts, scientists, and innovators** from across the globe

**Some of our most memorable highlights include:**

- Live chat with astronauts Thomas Pesquet and Mark Vande Hei from aboard the International Space Station
- A live call with NASA's first astronaut mother - Dr. Anna Fisher
- A live call with Dr. Swati Mohan, Guidance and Controls Operations Lead on the NASA's Mars 2020 mission
- In-person lecture by Michael Lopez-Alegría, a veteran of four space flights with NASA and a current astronaut with Axiom Space.
- A live call with Sunita Williams, NASA astronauts and Eytan Stibbe, Israeli astronaut, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and fighter pilot; participant in the historic Ax-1 mission of Axiom Space to the International Space Station

**The festival also includes:**

- Lectures given by some of the brightest minds in space science
- Interactive workshops
- Practical demonstrations
- Exhibition stands where participants of all ages have the chance to explore innovative technologies

As we prepare for our sixth edition, we are aiming for an even more remarkable event that brings together educators, industry professionals, thought leaders, and, most importantly, the future generation of innovators. We believe this event will not only be a celebration of achievements but also a catalyst for the flight of a third Bulgarian astronaut to Space and for inspiring the next Nobel and Oscar winners.

Given **Türkiye's remarkable advancements in space exploration and innovation**, we would be honored to feature **Alper Gezeravcı, Türkiye's first astronaut**, as a keynote speaker. His presence would serve as a powerful source of inspiration for thousands of young minds and highlight **Türkiye's growing contributions** to space exploration and STEAM education. Beyond his participation, such an appearance would also showcase **Türkiye's leadership** in the region's scientific and technological future, reinforcing its role as a pioneer in space exploration and strengthening Bulgarian-Turkish cooperation in innovation and education.

We would be honored to collaborate with the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Sofia to bring this initiative to life. We are keen to discuss how we can work together to make this vision a reality. Your support would be invaluable in ensuring the success of this initiative.

Kind regards,



Dr. Solomon Passy  
President of the Atlantic Club in Bulgaria  
Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2005)