

**Conference “The ambitions of Europe in Space”**

**15, 16 Oct-2009, Brussels**

**Second Plenary Session [11.30-13.00]**

**"Galileo/EGNOS and GMES Programmes state of play"**

***Keynote Speech by Valère Moutarlier***

***“Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES):  
towards the establishment of an EU Earth observation  
programme”***

**DRAFT**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here with you today to inform you on the current state of play in the implementation of GMES.

I would like to focus my speech on:

- the overall political and regulatory context of GMES,
- the roadmap for its implementation; and
- its purpose in the context of the European Space Policy.

*GMES as a European Space Policy flagship*

GMES, Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, is the **Earth observation flagship** of the European Space Policy.

Its main **objective** is, therefore, to establish and maintain a European **operational Earth observation capacity** which will **favour the emergence of services** in a wide range of domains like for example land monitoring, operational oceanography, atmospheric composition monitoring, climate, emergency response and security.

Not only is **Earth observation strategic** for European autonomy and independent access to information, but it also places Europe in an advantageous position looking ahead to the pressing need for readily available information for climate change including security threats.

**Space-based** Earth observation **systems** have a unique potential to provide a wealth of **information** about a wide range of physical **parameters** over continental surfaces, oceans and the **Earth's** atmosphere. Such information is highly relevant to most of the European Union policies and is increasingly provided with a short re-visit time and uniform spatial distribution world-wide.

**Earth observation by satellite** has seen some **rapid progress** in the last decades mostly for **operational meteorology**, pan European and national scientific missions and **national** imagery systems. The GMES Space Component, which has been designed following a gap analysis. It contributes to both operational strands comprising **missions for systematic observations of wide-areas on one side and imaging systems of targeted areas on the other side.**

*Where are we today*

**With GMES, the ambition of the Union is to bring space at the service of various EU policies.**

Until now, this has been done through:

- **a large-scale joint EU/ESA investment on dedicated spaceborne Earth observation missions, the Sentinels.**
- **An organised access** to other Earth observation missions;
- **The development of services exploiting spaceborne and in situ observations;**
- **A sustainable regulatory and programmatic framework** to ensure continuity of observations for the user communities as well as full, open and easy access to data and information;
- **And finally, international cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level** to ensure Europe's position as a world-class leader in earth observation.

### *Institutional steps in the last three years*

For GMES, the last three years have been very intense from an institutional perspective. To mention only a few:

- We **succeeded in obtaining significant public investments** on the EU and ESA sides: 1.2 billion euro through the EU Research programme and an equivalent amount through ESA Member States. I also have to mention the parallel investment of our industrial partners in the development of various applications to respond to identified users needs.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Space Council recognised GMES as a priority in the development of the European Space policies,
- The Commission **adopted a Communication in 2008**, which was the outcome of a long public consultation process, on the architecture, governance and overall objectives for the EU contribution to GMES.

It is fair to say that the development of the space component and of the GMES services, building on the aforementioned investments, is well under way.

Now, the **main challenge ahead** of us is to succeed in establishing the **GMES regulatory framework** and to sustain the necessary **funding** for an operational programme making a break through in the world wide user communities.

This is the reason why the Commission adopted last May a **proposal for a GMES regulation establishing an EU Earth observation programme.**

*The Commission's proposal for a GMES Programme Regulation*

This proposal **sets the foundations** for a long term programme including: objective, scope, organisational and funding arrangements, data policy and participation of third countries.

The proposed regulation identifies the main scope of the Community programme: a space component; a service component with six thematic areas (marine, land, atmosphere, climate, emergency and security response) and an in-situ component.

**Let me highlight three elements of this proposal:**

**1. Data policy**

A key element of the EU Earth Observation programme regulation is the GMES Data and Information Policy based on a “full and open access” principle. We are currently preparing with ESA the practical implementation of this principle for the Sentinels.

**2. The contribution of GMES to the global climate change effort.**

Understanding the Earth’s climate, mitigating the risks of and adapting to climate change is at the heart of GMES:

- through our partners at European and national level, we put at the disposal of the global climate scientific community precious current and archived satellite data sets;
- through the GMES services, and in cooperation with ESA and EUMETSAT, we invest on the processing of those data and the production of Essential Climate Variables for the different Earth sub-systems.

As a knowledge-based system, **GMES** will highly contribute to the definition and monitoring of evidence based climate adaptation policies.

### **3. The role of the institutional actors.**

Our asset in the implementation of GMES is the existing European expertise in the field of Earth Observation. This is why the programme proposal assigns to **ESA the implementation of the GMES Space Component** for and on behalf of the EU. ESA can rely on EUMETSAT when necessary.

#### *Next steps in the EU institutional context*

Let me conclude by stating that the Commission's programme proposal is an important step forward towards a sustainable EU Earth Observation programme.

We are committed to contribute to the negotiation phase of this proposal and to work together with the European Parliament and the Council to ensure a timely adoption of the Commission's proposal.

This is necessary to provide impetus and to meet the initial operations needs of GMES.

For the future, the sustainability of GMES beyond 2013 will be addressed in the context of the preparation of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework.

*Close*

With these final remarks, I will close my talk.

I would like to thank Business Bridge Europe for the organisation of this Conference.

I look forward to the remaining of the conference and its conclusions.

I thank you for your attention.