

“GMES in Action” Conference

Associated Event of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Copenhagen, Denmark, 4-5 June 2012

Copenhagen Resolution

The conference, highlighting the user and economic aspects of GMES, states that

GMES as a European flagship project is **crucial for Europe’s independence and autonomy**. At the same time it serves as a showcase on how Europe can successfully work together to take a global leadership role in monitoring planet Earth.

GMES is now at a cross roads: political leadership and action are urgently required to ensure that past development investments will lead to successful and sustainable operations. This will guarantee that the programme will not suffer delays and cost overruns.

GMES supports and enables a wide range of European and national policies and strategic objectives, complementing, integrating and reinforcing relevant Member States’ efforts.

GMES provides **unique, timely and sustainable Earth observation measurements** that contribute to understanding our planet as a geophysical system, thereby helping to protect the environment, to address grand challenges like climate change, carbon monitoring and the security of citizens.

GMES offers a **huge economic potential, creating jobs, sustainable and inclusive growth and business opportunities** in various industries as well as in the service sector.

GMES information and data **utilisation at the global, European regional and local levels** should be facilitated for the benefits of effective emergency and disaster relief, resources management and environmental monitoring as well as low-carbon economic growth.

GMES, while calling for initial investments, will exhibit a **return on investment of up to ten times** according to independent studies, constituting an efficient way of overcoming economic crises.

GMES needs an agreed long term plan in order to provide the **distinctive feature of long term availability and continuity of data** as a precondition of sustainable service provision for users from different domains.

GMES is a major contribution to GEOSS. Appropriate links to the GEO work plan must be strengthened.

GMES is in the **transition process from an initial phase to a fully operational system** with a space component, an in-situ component and a service component covering different thematic areas. The operationalization of GMES depends on consistency, balance and complementarity between these three components.

GMES needs a **dynamic governance model** of cooperation between the EU and its agencies, ESA, EUMETSAT, Member States and other key partners at European and national level, based on a thorough and permanent evaluation of user needs. This includes the issues of data and information policy and ownership as well as ensuring efficient operation by taking into due account existing mandates, competences and funding streams.

GMES requires a **funding model that expresses long term commitment of the European Union**. This would create trust in the system and trigger investments from the public as well as from the private sector.

Only with this can service continuity and undisturbed operation, which are core elements of the GMES concept, be ensured. In order to avoid gaps in operational funding, bridging solutions must be in place when current financing mechanisms expire.