

Paris, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

*Dear delegate at Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society,*

*Dear delegate at Working Party on Space,*

The European Union has recently adopted a Regulation establishing the Copernicus Programme. With this ambitious initiative, the EU will be granted a continuous, independent and reliable access to space imagery, data and information. Therefore, Copernicus will greatly influence the European knowledge contribution across the world.

The ultimate goal is to achieve an uninterrupted provision of accurate and reliable data related to global environmental or security issues. Continuity of such data is of paramount importance to policy makers as well as to users in charge of policy implementation in the EU and its Member States on these sensitive matters.

As you may know, within the dedicated infrastructure that will be deployed by the EU in the next months, two satellites (Sentinel<sup>1</sup> 1 and 3) are equipped with radars operating in the 5250-5470 MHz band.

However, a few months ago, major risks have been revealed regarding precisely this frequency band allocation, that might lead to a data link disruption with severe consequences on Copernicus services.

Currently, it appears the Radio Local Area Network (RLAN) will request this frequency band for mobile services, at the occasion of the next World Radio Conference in November 2015.. This request for RLAN is originating from the US with the support of several other administrations worldwide.

Since this announcement, experts have clearly demonstrated that there is no possible compatibility between the space and the RLAN systems signals and that no alternative can be envisaged.

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<sup>1</sup> Sentinel-1 will benefit numerous services: monitoring of Arctic sea-ice extent, routine sea-ice mapping, surveillance of the marine environment (including oil-spill monitoring and ship detection for maritime security), monitoring land-surface for motion risks, mapping for forest, water and soil management and mapping to support humanitarian aid and crisis situations. Sentinel-3 will provide near real-time data for ocean forecasting, sea-ice charting, maritime safety services... Land services to monitor land-use change, forest cover, photosynthetic activity, soil quality and fire detection will also benefit significantly from Sentinel-3.

Despite the reactions from some stakeholders, in particular ESA and industry, there is today absolutely no guarantee that this crucial frequency band is secured for the European Copernicus system.

**The European space industry therefore urges the Member States of the EU and the European Commission to oppose the introduction of mobile services in the 5350-5470MHz band.**

Europe has so far invested several billions of euros in the development, deployment and exploitation of Copernicus. It would be incomprehensible to the citizens, taxpayers, scientists, policy-makers and entrepreneurs in the downstream services industry that the system, and its benefits for environment and security, is jeopardized by the unavailability of the required radiofrequency.

Indeed, more generally, since the EU is becoming the owner of major operational space infrastructure, the European space industry continues to insist that **the EC** – which is bearing the overall responsibility for these programmes – **takes all necessary actions to formally ensure that all EU sectorial policies initiatives** (in this case, telecommunications) **are consistent in supporting the objectives of the EU space policy and, in particular, of its flagship programmes.**

I thank you in advance for your support and remain at your disposal for any additional information you might need.

In the meantime I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Marco Fuchs,  
President of Eurospace

Cc: Mrs Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission; Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission; Mr Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner