

# Space Solutions for Resilience in the Mediterranean

## Conference conclusions

1. The concept of migration covers different situations and relates to a variety of policy instruments in the EU and its Member States. The UN has been addressing economic development and other roots causes of migration through its Agenda 2030, which sets out a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Earth Observation (EO) systems can help achieving these goals, for instance by assisting in the management of natural resources (such as forests) or as input to a series of statistical indicators measuring progress towards the SDGs.
2. Humanitarian assistance and official development assistance go hand-in-hand and EO data provides useful information for both. Data from the Copernicus programme and added-value information from the Copernicus services are available on a free, full and open basis. They provide a valuable contribution to furthering economic and environmental development in partner countries. For example, the EU and the African Union Commission have been engaged for over a decade in a partnership strengthening Africa's own capacity to exploit EO for sustainable development purposes (GMES and Africa initiative). EO data is particularly suitable to monitor Mediterranean forests, which are essential assets for enhancing rural development, fighting against desertification and adapting to climate change. Products and services derived from EO data are increasingly embedded in development projects funded by international development banks.
3. Space bears a strategic interest for EU foreign policy. EU security needs are evolving fast, for instance with respect to maritime security, border control or the stability of neighbouring countries threatened by all kinds of trafficking and other illegal activities. Strategic autonomy in this field brings benefits not only to EU citizens and Member States but also to EU partner countries, especially in the Mediterranean, which expect the EU to be a security provider. ESA is considering new missions to address emerging observation needs, defined by the EC in the framework of Copernicus.
4. The stabilisation of the Mediterranean region - in political, economic, and security related terms - is at the heart of the new European Neighbourhood Policy, with priorities such as good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights, economic development for stabilisation, the security dimension and migration and mobility. EO data has been used repeatedly in situations such as confidence building aimed at restoring the rule of law. The recently created European Border and Coast Guard will make use of state-of-the-art information technologies to perform its missions, including EO based information from the Copernicus programme. The Copernicus security services already support the external action of the EU with products ranging from reference maps to activity reports.

5. The European Commission is assessing the possibility to devote some €3.5bn to a future defence research programme as from 2021 in the framework of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. European military cooperation will increase with potential new requirements in EO. New technology developments are also foreseen, ranging from persistent imagery, increased detection capabilities or High Altitude Platform Systems, that could serve to foster the development of civilian-driven EO capabilities and could complement such military components. Synergies could be explored in this context.
  
6. Europe can be a model for regional sea governance and can lead international efforts to improve ocean governance, including its security and environmental dimension. Sub-regional strategies such as the Western Mediterranean strategy are essential in order to build partnership between EU Member States. The Blue Economy should be considered as an additional field of cooperation with the African Union. EO data contributes to a strong knowledge and evidence-based approach on the marine environment. EO data and services have been successfully used to this end, notably in the fight against marine pollution, as illustrated by the recent publication of the Ocean State report by the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring service.
  
7. Europe is the largest producer of scientific data in the world, and with the Copernicus programme, a major producer of EO data. Yet, the EO data potential is not yet fully exploited and, in the era of Big data, will bring further added-value when combined with other data sources. In order to foster services derived from Copernicus data, initiatives such as the creation of Copernicus Data and Information Access Platforms (DIAS) and the European Open Science Cloud can help to support the development of new business opportunities for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups, including in the field of sustainable development in Europe and beyond.