



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council, establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010 - Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

1. On 12 July 2013, the Commission submitted to the Council the corrigendum¹ of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council, establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 911/2010. This corrigendum substitutes and replaces the initial version of the Regulation proposal, adopted on 29 May 2013.

¹ Doc. 10275/1/13 REV 1 + ADD 1 + ADD 2

2. The proposal for a Regulation concerns the establishment of Copernicus, which is the new name of the European Commission's Earth Observation Programme, previously known as GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).

The programme aims at providing Europe with a continuous, independent and reliable access to earth observation data and information. It is structured in six different services: Marine, Atmosphere, Land and Climate change monitoring as well as support to Emergency and Security services. Copernicus uses data from satellites and in-situ sensors such as buoys or air sensors to provide timely and reliable information and forecasting to support (for example) agriculture and fisheries, land use and urban planning, the fight against forest fires, disaster response, maritime transport or air pollution monitoring.

Copernicus also contributes to economic stability and growth by boosting commercial applications (the so-called downstream services) in many different sectors through a full and open access to Copernicus observation data and information products. It is one of the programmes to be delivered under the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and it was included in the industrial policy initiative of Europe 2020, given its benefits to a wide range of Union policies.

The Regulation proposal focuses on the following main aspects:

- (1) Governance of GMES in its operational phase, with a view to allowing the Commission to delegate activities to a number of operators;
- (2) Funding over 2014-2020.

3. The present proposal, which is based on Article 189(2) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee nor that of the Committee of Regions. However, given the scope of the proposed Regulation, the Commission's proposal to consult the two Committees is considered appropriate.

 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions on the above proposal and to request them to give their opinions as soon as possible
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