



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**ESPACE 6  
COMPET 53  
RECH 24  
IND 19  
TRANS 23  
ENER 38  
ECOFIN 92  
CODUN 8  
ENV 66  
COSDP 89  
POLMIL 5  
TELECOM 19**

**NOTE**

From:	Presidency
To:	Competitiveness Council, 21 February 2012
No. Cion. Prop.	doc. 17072/11 COMPET 525 ESPACE 81 IND 165 RECH 417 TRANS 346 POLARM 23 ECOFIN 856 TELECOM 201 ENER 392 ENV 925
Subject:	European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES)

At the Competitiveness Council on 6 December 2011 the Commission presented the Communication on the European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES) and its operations from 2014 and onwards. The Communication, which had been adopted by the Commission on 30 November 2011, touched upon governance, data policy and funding of the GMES Programme from 2014. In the Communication, the Commission proposed to place GMES outside the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and establish an intergovernmental fund instead.

In December 2011, the then incoming Danish Presidency was expecting to present Council Conclusions in response to the Commission's Communication on GMES at the Competitiveness Council on 21 February 2012.

This was based on a strong wish by a number of Member States to adopt Council Conclusions on this matter.

However, following discussions throughout January 2012, it became clear that it was not possible to find agreement on a meaningful text among the Member States.

The most problematic issue appeared to be the funding of the GMES from 2014 and onwards. This became difficult to discuss because of its close relations to the ongoing negotiations on the MFF for 2014-2020. The MFF is negotiated in the General Affairs Council (GAC).

With the growing differences of opinion among Member States, the Presidency found that the subject matter was no longer suitable for consensus based Conclusions. Hence, the Presidency was compelled to cancel the Council Conclusions in early February 2012.

The Presidency would like to stress that the cancellation of the draft GMES conclusions does not support particular views in the debate and does not provide a basis for drawing any conclusions on the opinion of the Council concerning the future of the GMES programme.

At the Competitiveness Council on 21 February 2012, there will be an exchange of views on GMES. In the interest of good economy of time, like-minded delegations are encouraged to consider the option of being represented by one or a few spokesperson(s) (Council Rules of Procedure, Annex V, pt 14). A full round table on this agenda item is not foreseen.