



## **EARSC Statement**

### **2023 Strategic Foresight Report**

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](https://www.earsc.org)) is a trade association based in Brussels, representing the European downstream services sector. EARSC counts more than 135 members across 25 countries of Europe.

EARSC welcomes the European Commission's consultation on the **2023 Strategic Foresight Report** which is designed to help the European Union anticipate and prepare for future challenges and opportunities. Within the context of the current digital paradigm and as the report focuses on identifying trends, challenges and opportunities that are likely to shape the future of the EU over the next year. We consider satellite-based Earth Observation (EO), such as data coming from Sentinel satellites ([Copernicus programme](https://www.copernicus.eu)) as being a **reliable and valuable technology**, providing **data-driven support for policy and decision makers in the context of the twin transition**. The Earth Observation information not only helps to inform policies but also **fosters the economic development and enhances decisions on a broad range of societal and business challenges**.

As Europe aspires to lead climate change mitigation efforts in the face of global warming, it is critical that actions are guided by reliable, accurate and timely information powered by relevant data and services. Data from EO satellites has the potential to both accelerate the digital transition and support the transition to a net-zero economy by providing valuable information and insights for various sectors. EO is characterised by its cross-industry nature and capacity to provide economic benefits in terms of cost-effectiveness in many industrial ecosystems, such as agri-food, construction, energy, transport, tourism, (...) which can lead to a more efficient decision-making process.

Satellite-derived data as part of the digital transformation is opening up new opportunities for understanding trends and protecting our planet providing crucial information to inform policy decisions.

The ambitious goals for the environment and a low-carbon economy call for advanced and innovative capacities and services to monitor, analyse, predict and mitigate the impact of the human activity on natural resources. Earth observation data has become an essential operational instrument to monitor the evolutions of the environment and measure progress towards the goals set by the Green Deal.

As the EU Strategic Foresight Report is an important tool for policymakers, businesses, and citizens to understand the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and to prepare for a rapidly changing future, EARSC believes that the 2023 Strategic Foresight Report should **highlight the operational solutions based on Earth Observation data as a key technology to achieve the goals set by the European Green Deal and enable successful twinning.** EARSC remains at your disposal to work together on this objective.