

EARSC Statement for the European Commission Consultation on GreenData4All Impact assessment

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](#)), a trade association representing over 140 company members across Europe in the **Earth Observation (EO) industry**¹, commends the European Commission's endeavour to engage stakeholders in the development of updated rules on environmental spatial data and access to environmental information under the GreenData4All initiative.

As the EU ambitiously pursues its Green Deal objectives, it is imperative to utilize various tools, with Earth observation emerging as a pivotal instrument in addressing the challenges outlined within the GreenData4All consultation and advancing its objectives.

The **Copernicus component of the EU Space programme**², coupled with **EO commercial missions**, delivers essential information and services crucial for the establishment of the Green Data Space, facilitating the green and digital twin transitions. Satellite-derived data and services play a vital role in enhancing environmental understanding and driving decision-making processes.

In navigating the GreenData4All consultation, it becomes apparent that data forms the foundation for informed decision-making across sectors. The **European Strategy for Data** underscores the significance of common European data spaces, particularly the **Common European Green Deal Data Space**, in supporting priority actions aimed at addressing climate change, circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity, and deforestation.

¹ **Earth Observation (EO)** refers to the use of remote sensing technologies to monitor land, marine (seas, rivers, lakes) and atmosphere. Satellite-based EO relies on the use of satellite-mounted payloads to gather imaging data about the Earth's characteristics. The images are then processed and analysed in order to extract different types of information that can serve a very wide range of applications and industries. Ref. [EUSPA](#)

² **Copernicus** is the Earth Observation component of the European Union's space programme, looking at our planet and its environment for the benefit of Europe's citizens (<https://www.copernicus.eu/en>)

Through a comprehensive approach, **Earth observation significantly enhances environmental monitoring and provides indispensable insights to support stakeholders in decision-making processes.** This capability enables evidence-based policies, facilitates risk assessment, and aids in identifying areas for conservation and restoration. Additionally, Earth observation fosters cross-border collaboration by offering transboundary data crucial for addressing shared environmental concerns.

Integration of EO data with other types of data, such as socioeconomic or infrastructure data, provides a holistic understanding of environmental issues and their societal impacts, aligning with the objectives of the GreenData4All initiative. Furthermore, it complements the spatial data provided by the INSPIRE Directive, ensuring accessibility of environmental information across diverse sectors and domains, thereby promoting interoperability in line with the Data Governance Act and the Open Data Directives.

By democratizing access to satellite imagery and geospatial data, Earth observation empowers stakeholders, fostering transparency, accountability, and public engagement in environmental governance processes. Leveraging Earth observation data alongside the INSPIRE Directive's framework and other digital data initiatives enables policymakers to effectively address environmental challenges and facilitate the transition to a more sustainable economy. **EARSC fully supports the integration of new monitoring practices, such as the use of satellite-derived data and value-added services, as operational solutions to bolster the GreenData4All discussions. EARSC stands ready to collaborate on achieving this objective.**