



**EARSC Statement**  
**on the consultation for the CoR opinion on**  
**['European Green Deal and Health'](#)**

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](#)) 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 work of the [Commission for Environment, Climate change and Energy \(ENVE\)](#) of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on its opinion on "['European Green Deal and Health'](#)".

While climate change presents the greatest threat to humanity, there is an arsenal of tools to be leveraged allowing us to fight it. The green transition must be complemented by the continued use and improvement of modern technologies. Space technologies, for example, can be used to monitor climate change, help with public sector's response to climate change, and track the progress of that response.

**Earth observation (EO) satellites** can observe what happens on Earth from space; this includes land, sea, water, atmosphere, and human activities. Thanks to unprecedented technological innovations, EO now allows decision-makers to identify risks, tailor policy response and resource allocation. It is a powerful tool to effectively identify trends and monitor progress towards the Green Deal policies. This actionable information helps on the monitoring, reporting, and the facilitation and shaping of reporting methods, policy and tools. These insights can inform municipalities priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on regional issues.

Satellite-derived data from public and private missions which together with modern data processing and analytics, offer new opportunities to track sustainable development. These many new features of EO capabilities will make them an indispensable source of data for many others: objectivity, repeatability, global coverage, data continuity, affordable, thematic detail.

EO can be used to monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda, the area "[EO Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)" is populated with EO services and products to enrich the contribution of the private sector to SDGs but also covering Green Deal policies. Among the extensive list of services, the EO4SDGs include:

- (SDG1) characterizing droughts and impact on poverty
- (SDG2) crop monitoring, classification and mapping agricultural land while assessing compliance with land use regulations
- (SDG3) detection of health risk areas providing early warnings of vector-borne diseases and natural disasters
- (SDG6) water quality and user efficiency, change in the extent and dynamics mapping and monitoring of water-related ecosystems
- (SDG7) assess rooftop solar energy potential and solar PV site selection, mapping and monitoring
- (SDG8) monitoring, reporting and verification for commodities and managing ethical supply chains
- (SDG9) urban dynamics and informal settlements, mapping infrastructures and displacements monitoring
- (SDG11) population density, modelling and forecasting, spatial impacts of forces displacement for evidence-based decision making, mapping and monitoring urban settlements and housing
- (SDG12) environmental monitoring on production sites
- (SDG13) monitoring climate change for disaster response, industrial methane monitoring, climate change impact analysis
- (SDG14) monitoring aquatic plastic litter and maritime pollution, sargassum detection for operational and seasonal planning

- (SDG15) mapping and monitoring forests, by identifying degradation, rehabilitation, and recovery
- (SDG16) increasing peace by transparency, post conflict assessments and democratised access to disaster intelligence
- (CrossSDGs) access point to geospatial data, multi-cloud/hybrid cloud processing platform, integrated AI capabilities, professional marketplace for self -Service provision, API for platform automation and interoperability.

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 Green Deal agenda policies. Within the context of the [SDGs-EYES project](#) (Enhancing monitoring of the SDGs through the family of copErnicus Services (SDGsEYEs), EARSC will help to bring awareness on the European capacity for monitoring the SDGs based on Copernicus, building a portfolio of tools supporting decision-making to monitor those SDG indicators related to the environment from an inter-sectoral perspective, aligning with the EU Green Deal priorities and challenges.

Satellite-derived data is a critical source for monitoring and driving progress for the Green Deal policies. By observing the Earth from space, EO capabilities can contribute to the protection of forests, lands, oceans, mitigate disasters, ensure a stable food supply, and even protect people's health from air pollutants. The use of Earth Observation data would improve the quality of data used by public administrations. This would have a considerable impact on the management and the decision-making process<sup>1</sup> – as public authorities and civil servants who have more accurate information about natural resources, can take better informed and more efficient decisions, and could simplify reporting obligations vis-à-vis several national and EU directives.

EARSC remains at your disposal to work together on this objective.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/opportunities/public-authorities>

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