



EARSC Statement

2022 Strategic Foresight Report

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 initiative of the 2022 Strategic Foresight Report and the opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of the twinning of the green and digital transition.

We consider satellite-based Earth Observation (EO), such as data coming from Sentinel satellites ([Copernicus programme](#)¹) 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 create policies but also **fosters the economic development and enhance decisions on a broad range of societal and business challenges**.

The European twin transition is an ambitious plan that will require an abundance of resources, including viable data. This digital transformation, with an unprecedented level of computing power, fuelled with automation processes and machine learning, is revolutionizing our ability to monitor our planet and transforming the way we access, process and exploit Earth

¹ Copernicus is the European Union's Earth observation programme coordinated and managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency, the EU Member States and EU agencies. It aims at achieving a global, continuous, autonomous, high quality, wide range Earth observation capacity

Observation data from satellites. This EO data offers operational solutions to monitor its evolution and mitigate the effects of climate change helping decision-makers to identify risks, tailor policy response and resource allocation, monitor progress and identify trends.

“...we all know that only what gets measured gets done”, said President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen at announcing the Global Methane Pledge at COP26 in Glasgow².

As the green transition must be complemented by the continued use and improvement of new datasets, satellite based services are one of the building blocks for providing actionable information and connect the missing dots. Satellite derived information makes it possible having a **wide range of operational applications and services**, for example, to confront climate change, governments need to understand the environmental footprint of global supply chains and EO plays an important role in the value chain of many industries. Intelligence on global supply chains, information on the state of infrastructure, for farmers, to support reactions in times of crisis as well as on the state of the environment are becoming vital for operational decision making in many industries.

Earth observation from satellites can provide a unique and timely source of data that is commensurable across countries, regions and cities, **from a local to a global scale** and usable across various markets.

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.

Consequently, EARSC believes that the 2022 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.**

² [Speech by President von der Leyen on the launch of the Global Methane Pledge \(02/11/2021\)](#)