# Policy Observatory

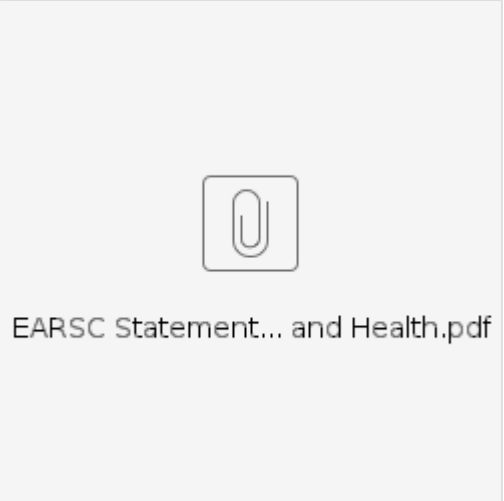
Under its Policy Observatory, EARSC is monitoring relevant EU policies and advocating for increased use of the EO services to support policy-makers.

## Statements (Consultations)

EARSC gathers the inputs of its members on how the downstream EO sector can contribute to various EU initiatives. These statements, reflecting the industry's views and recommendations, are submitted in response to the European Commission's open consultations with the objective of including EO capabilities in support of the achievements of European policies.

| DATE | CONSULTATION | EARSC Statement |
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| 15 Mar 2024 | Call for Evidence: "GreenData4All: updated rules on geospatial environmental data and access to environmental information" |   |
| 21 Feb 2024 | CoR consultation "Towards a Global Green Deal: harmonising global frameworks for climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development" |   |

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| 21 Feb 2024 | CoR Stakeholders Consultation- Towards a Resilient Water Management |  |
| 07 Feb 2024 | Contribution to the EU forests – new EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans |  |
| **DATE** | **CONSULTATION** | **EARSC Statement** |
| 19 Oct 2023 | Contribution to the consultation: Soil health – protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils |  |

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| 11 Oct 2023 | The Commission for Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE) of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is working on an opinion on "*European Green Deal and Health*". EARSC is contributing to the written stakeholder consultation |  |
| 24 Mar 2023 | The United Nations Common Agenda proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed upon at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 through a technology track involving all stakeholders. |  |
| 22 Mar 2023 | Certification of carbon removals – EU rules |  |

| Date | Consultation | EARSC Statement |
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| 14 Mar 2023 | EC Integrated water management – revised lists of surface and groundwater pollutants |   |
| 14 Mar 2023 | Water pollution – EU rules on urban wastewater treatment |   |
| 07 Mar 2023 | EC The Strategic Foresight Report for 2023 focuses on the future of the EU's social and economic sustainability |   |

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| 29 Nov 2022 | EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<br><br>Earth observation (EO) is a powerful instrument to support the reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EARSC booklet gathers an example of EO services supporting the 2030 Agenda. (Extract Nov 2022). Visit the online version at this link. |  |
| 23 Nov 2022 | European Critical Raw Materials Act |  |
| 17 Nov 2022 | EU forests – new EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans (Consultation - survey to fine-tune the initiative) |  |

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| 14 Nov 2022 | Contribution to the Hybrid Stakeholder Consultation on the CoR opinion on the EU Nature Restoration Law |  |
| 02 Nov 2022 | EU research and energy policy – revamping the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) |  |
| 17 Oct 2022 | Count your transport emissions – 'CountEmissions EU' |  |

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| 08 Sep 2022 | Update of the EU maritime security strategy and its action plan | EARSC Statement...me Strategy.pdf |
| 24 Aug 2022 | EC Nutrients Action Plan for better management. Call for evidence Nutrients – action plan for better management.pdf | EARSC Statemen...management.pdf |
| 13 May 2022 | EU Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment | EARSC Statement...nvironment .pdf |

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| 06 May 2022 | EU Forests- New EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans |  |
| 02 May 2022 | Certification of carbon removals- EU rules |  |
| 18 Apr 2022 | EC New rules to prevent methane leakage in the energy sector |  |

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| 12 Apr 2022 | EU Solar Energy initiative | EARSC Statement...olar energy.pdf |
| 17 Mar 2022 | EC 2022 Strategic Foresight Report : better understanding of the twinning of the green and the digital transitions | EARSC Statement...ight Report.pdf |
| 16 Mar 2022 | Soil health – protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils | EARSC Statement-...oil Strategy.pdf |

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| 03 Mar 2022 | Revising the EU rules on illegal discharges from ships | EARSC Statement...es of ships.pdf |

| DATE | CONSULTATION | EARSC STATEMENT |
|---|---|---|
| December 2021 | EARSC Green Deal Terms of Reference | EARSC-Working-G...-Green-Deal.pdf |
| 17 Dec 2021 | Count your transport emissions- "CountEmissions EU" | EARSC Statement...missions EU.pdf |

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| 19 Nov 2021 | EU Strategy for Space Traffic Management |  |
| 18 Nov 2021 | EU renewable energy rules- review |  |
| 16 Dec 2021 | Air quality - revision of EU rules |  |

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| 26 Oct 2021 | Sustainable EU Food system- new initiative |  |

# Position Papers

Position papers are powerful tools to gather the collective views and concerns of the industry and make these known to external stakeholders, in order to bring about positive changes that benefit the industry. The EARSC Position papers reflect the industry views and provide recommendations on a specific topic, which is relevant to the sector.

| DATE | TOPIC | |
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| 08 Jun 2023 | In the context of the activities carried out by the Defence and Civil Security Working Group, EARSC has produced a **Position paper** on the European Union's action plan to strengthen its security and defence policy by 2030.<br><br>The paper aims to reinforce the voice of the European Earth Observation data and services industry; ensuring that the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence leverages the EO services industry capabilities and consolidates relations with the relevant stakeholders. | |

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| 15 Sep 2022 | The European Commission is currently working on a **roadmap to address the modernisation strategy of Copernicus**. EARSC has produced a Position paper on the evolution of Copernicus presenting the industry's views on the three pillars: 1- Digitalisation 2- Contribution to the Green Deal 3- Security/Resilience. | |
| 29 Jul 2022 | The European Earth Observation (EO) Services industry welcomes the ambitious objectives set by the **New European Forest Strategy** alongside other EU Policy initiatives aiming at improving the quantity and quality of Europe's forests by 2030. Earth Observation capabilities, by delivering near-real time, consistent and tree-level information of the world's forests are a crucial tool to deliver Europe's forests goals. EARSC members are convinced that the urgency to act calls for action; it can be done now, at scale and with unprecedented precision, at high-cost efficiency. Against this context, the EARSC Position Paper on forest management (attached) strongly advocates for the systematic integration of EO data and services as operational tools in the design, implementation and evaluation of all ongoing and upcoming legislative and policy initiatives in the field of environmental protection, with particular regards to forests, biodiversity and the sustainability of supply chains. | |

# Letters

EARSC letters are short documents providing the industry views on a policy initiative or legislation to target specific stakeholders (MEPs, Council attachés, etc). In the context of a Proposal for Regulation/Directive, the letters provide our suggestions for amendments to the text.

| Date | Topic | EARSC Letter | Annex (if applicable) |
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| November 2023 | EARSC response to the **proposed EU Space Law (new rules for safe, resilient, and sustainable space activities)** |  | |
| November 2023 | EARSC response to the **Mid-term evaluation of the Space Programme** |  | |
| March 2023 | EARSC letter to MEPs on the position of the **Proposal for a Regulation for a certification framework for carbon removals** |  | |

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| July 2022 | EARSC letter to MEPs on the position of the EU Regulation on **Methane Emissions Reduction in the Energy Sector and Amending Regulation** (EU) 2019/942 |   |   |
| April 2022 | EARSC letter to MEPs on the **E U Regulation on Deforestation-free Products**<br><br>Annex 1: Earth Observation Technological Feasibility Assessment "Proposal for a Regulation on Deforestation-free Products" by Article |   |   |

# Technical Documents

Technical feasibility assessment documents provide details (resolution, frequency…) on how the EO capabilities can be used in the context of a specific policy area/legislation. These documents are useful to explain the extent and scope of the EO technology.

| Date | Topic | EARSC Technical Feasibility Assessment |
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| September 2023 | EARSC has updated a technical **feasibility document** with additional information on the role that satellites can play in the Proposal on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector. The new updates include references to the MRV (Monitoring Reporting Verification) that could include all technologies: satellites, drones, and in-situ measurement and a proposal for a Tier monitoring Approach. |  |
| June 2023 | Example of Catalogue of Earth Observation Services and Products for Local and Regional Authorities. |  |
| March 2023 | The Strategic Roadmap developed under the FIREFORUM project reflects the research and innovation strategy, with the EC and Member State funding agencies in mind as the prime audience. Download the pdf version of the road map for the following sectors:<br>• Wind Energy, Urban Development, Raw Materials, Marine & Maritime, Infrastructure, Agriculture | blocked URL AGRICULTURE blocked URL RAW MATERIALS<br>blocked URL INFRASTRUCTURE blocked URL URBAN DEVELOPMENT<br>blocked URL MARINE & MARITIME blocked URL WIND ENERGY |
| November 2022 | Earth observation (EO) is a powerful instrument to support the reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This booklet gathers an example of EO services supporting the 2030 Agenda. (Extract Nov 2022). Visit the online version at this link. |  |

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| November 2022 | EARSC discussion document on Soil Health responding to some of the elements of the consultation. The document highlights operational solutions currently provided by EO capabilities responding to land management practices' needs in the context of soil health. |  |
| November 2022 | In the context of the Proposal on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector, EARSC is convinced that the Regulation should include satellite-based data and services, such as Copernicus data, for the measurement, reporting and verification of energy sector methane emissions. In order to better understand the current state of the technology with the existing operational solutions as well as the potential of satellite capabilities, we have prepared a technological feasibility assessment document |  |
| June 2022 | Support letter for EU - MEPs & Council. Earth Observation Technological Feasibility Assessment "Proposal for a Regulation on Deforestation-free Products" |  |

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| Nov 2021 | Examples of Earth Observation-Based Services for the EU Forestry Strategy |   |