

GMES: New opportunities for Eastern Europe

Conference in Bucharest, Romania, 03-04 May 2012

BUCHAREST CONCLUSIONS

The conference on “GMES: New Opportunities for Eastern Europe”,

Recognizing the relevance of the GMES Programme as Europe’s answer to the vital need for up-to-date information about our environment and resources, and to support the civil security of European citizens,

Recognizing that GMES is moving from its research and development phase towards the operational phase and that GMES serves a large and diverse number of users,

Taking into account that the full range of socio-economic benefits of GMES , which are estimated at 4-12 times of its costs, will also be available to Eastern European countries, in particular the EU- 12 States, and that these potential benefits should be made widely known to the relevant decision makers and users,

Believes that GMES will provide invaluable opportunities for economic growth and job creation and that GMES represents a vital tool for territorial management also in the EU-12 States, on the national and local level, also related to emergency response, atmosphere, environment, agriculture and forestry monitoring as well as border control and risk prevention, while taking duly into account the specific particularities within those States,

Emphasizes the potential of GMES to create business opportunities in the Eastern European States , taking into account the relevant existing national and regional operational capacities of the EU-12 States, by making available GMES data generated by the Sentinels and the GMES Contribution Missions, and **welcomes** the efforts of ESA and the European Commission to further raise awareness for this aspect of GMES in the EU-12 States, benefiting the creation and evolution of downstream services in this region.

Acknowledges the excellent level of achievement obtained by the GMES Programme up to date, in relation to all three components of GMES, i.e. the Space Component, the Services Component and the In-situ Component, and the fact that GMES so far has remained largely within budget and schedule,

Underlines that GMES, as a unique and strategic driver for sustainable and environmentally friendly development, requires adequate funding with an appropriate operational EU budget line in order to become fully operational as of 2014, thus allowing the provision of full and uninterrupted Services and reassuring the user communities that GMES will continue as planned,

Expresses the wish to establish this conference as a regular annual event, for the benefit of the Eastern European States and of GMES as a whole.