

Bucharest Conclusions

Copernicus – big data benefitting environment and society

Conference in Bucharest, Romania, 01 – 02 October 2015

The conference on “Copernicus – big data benefitting environment and society ”,

Welcomes the organisation of the 2015 edition of the annual Copernicus conferences in Bucharest, dedicated to Eastern European states and their (potential) users and service providers and **welcomes** the fact that participation to the conference is growing amongst Eastern European states;

Acknowledges the excellent progress made by COPERNICUS and its components since the Bucharest conference of October 2014, in particular the launch of Sentinel -2A in June 2015 and the resulting increase of data becoming available to services and users;

Confirms that the free, open and full internet- based access to Sentinel data provides the necessary foundation for a successful operational phase of the Copernicus programme and will increasingly enable Eastern European users and service providers to access and process Sentinel and COPERNICUS Contributing Missions data;

Acknowledges that COPERNICUS will contribute considerably to developing an in-depth understanding of the physical processes involved in climate change and efforts to model those processes, while **underlining** that numerical climate models depend on in-situ and space-based observations to reproduce the complexity of the various components of the climate system (atmosphere, oceans, ice, land surfaces etc) and to project future climate scenarios that depend on various socioeconomic factors, including the future actions of humans;

Confirms that handling of “big data”, the overarching theme of this year edition of the conference, is indeed crucial in transforming free and open data into information that brings tangible benefits to environment and society;

Encourages all actors, both from space and user communities, to continue to invest in an open dialogue aiming at developing applications that transform the wealth of data provided by the COPERNICUS programme into information, using the expert knowledge of the different user communities and serving their operational needs .

Encourages Romania and the organising organisations/committees of this conference to share these conclusions within the international framework of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the United Nations (COPUOS) and other fora, including the 2015 Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Convention, with a view to further emphasize the decisive role of space science and technology in monitoring and managing natural disasters and climate change.