



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 16.VIII.2013*

*C(2013) 5368 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions, on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Agreement for the operations of the European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES) from 2014 to 2020 {COM(2012) 218 final}, and apologises for the long delay in replying.*

*The Commission has duly noted the Senát's comments and arguments, and appreciates its interest in this important matter. In February 2013, the European Council reached a political agreement on the multiannual financial framework (MFF) which includes financing for Copernicus (previously known as GMES) with a level of commitments of EURO 3.8 billion. This decision is in line with the Senát's opinion and confirms the commitment of Member States to the success of the programme. An agreement has now been reached between the Parliament and the Council on the next MFF.*

*Building on this important decision, the Commission, which has always been convinced of the importance of this flagship programme of the EU space policy, recently made a proposal for a new Regulation establishing the Copernicus programme {COM(2013) 312 final}. This proposal is now in the hands of the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Johannes Hahn  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH  
President of the Senát  
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