



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Report from the Commission concerning the mid-term evaluation of the Copernicus Programme (2014-2020) {COM(2017) 617 final}.

The evaluation report adopts a new approach, following the data value chain of Copernicus: from the data gathering and processing to the data and information distribution, to user and market uptake dynamics. In just a couple of years, Copernicus has become one of the biggest providers of Earth Observation data in the world and engine for Europe's digital economy. From the success of its data provision infrastructure, to the accuracy of the data distributed according to a free, full and open data policy, to the huge potential for commercial applications, Copernicus has already shown its value and earned recognition for the EU on the international scene.

The mid-term evaluation has been performed in compliance with the requirements defined in the Copernicus Regulation¹, including a stakeholder consultation, and aimed at assessing the benefits and the achievements of the programme in the first three years of activity. It also aimed at verifying how the programme could respond to new challenges and ambitions, in the framework of the priorities outlined in the Space Strategy for Europe {COM(2016) 705 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support for the Copernicus programme and takes note of its recommendation on the extended mandate for the European Global Navigation Satellite System Agency. The Senát's Opinion and other contributions received will be taken into account when the new proposal establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the

¹ Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010.

Space Programme², including Copernicus, will be discussed in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elzbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*

² COM(2018) 447 final of 6.6.2018.