



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.7.2015
C(2015) 5361 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Chambre des Députés for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Directive on the dissemination of Earth observation satellite data for commercial purposes {COM(2014) 344 final}.

On 1 July the Commission took a decision to withdraw this proposal. The decision was motivated by the fact that despite intensive contacts with the Council and the European Parliament, it had become apparent that reconciling the different positions would require significant modifications which would affect the objectives of the original proposal. Therefore, the Commission has withdrawn the proposal and will work on a new initiative in the field of exploitation of space data, to be included in the Commission Work Programme for 2016.

That being said, the Commission appreciates the Opinion of the Chambre des Députés and agrees on the need to ensure that the fundamental right of individuals to data protection is respected. It has been the long-standing policy of the Commission to address this issue as a priority and to treat it as much as possible in a horizontal manner. That approach is fully reflected in the recent Commission proposals for reforming the EU legal framework on the protection of personal data – the proposals for a General Data Protection Regulation {COM(2012) 11 final} and for the Directive on protecting personal data processed for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences and related judicial activities {COM(2012) 10 final}. As these proposals aim at a comprehensive, coherent and modern framework on personal data protection, the Commission must avoid diverging provisions on data protection in specific legislation having a different focus, as this would result in more dilution and less coherence in the European legislation on data protection.

The Commission would like to assure the Chambre des Députés that, as it was done in the past, issues of personal data protection and citizens' security will be addressed with utmost importance in any future initiative replacing the withdrawn proposal.

*Mr Mars DI BARTOLOMEO
President of the Chambre des Députés
23, rue du Marché-aux-Herbes
L-1728 LUXEMBOURG*

The Commission hopes that these clarifications usefully address the issues raised by the Chambre des Députés and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Elzbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*