

Round-table discussion on The Copernicus-programme in the timeframe 2014-2020:
regulatory aspects

Organised by Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia and Deutsches Zentrum für
Luft-und Raumfahrt (German Aerospace Centre)

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Speaking notes from Maria da Graça Carvalho

Important points for the European Parliament

- European Parliament (EP) supported GMES (now Copernicus) as from the beginning:
 - first regulation voted in plenary on 16/06/2010: + 624, – 33, Ø 12, 669
 - single reading vote without any amendments
- on 16/02/2012 EP voted legislative resolution on GMES¹; main points:
 - EP did not agree with proposal of European Commission (COM) to finance GMES outside MFF or via intergovernmental funding
 - EP called COM to speedily table a legislative proposal
- first GMES services already successfully used after earthquake in Haiti or floods in Germany to produce maps for aid organisations
- EP very happy that – after long discussion – Copernicus is now within the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 and with a fix amount of money
- EP regrets late publication of proposal for a regulation by COM
- late publication = delay and threat for whole programme
- now need for concentrated work on proposal in order to finish in time
- as from 1 January 2014 new legal basis needed to guaranty continuation of the programme, continue the financing, assure continuation of flow of data, not endanger jobs
- main challenges for Copernicus regulation:
 - keep the idea of full, open and free-of-charge access to data
 - define the conditions of access to data
 - assure good governance of programme
 - define clearly role of COM, operators, Member States and other participants.

¹ for resolution see: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0062+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>