
EARSC

European Association
of Remote Sensing
Companies



Vice-President Tajani,
European Commission
200, Rue de la Loi,
Brussels
31st January 2014

Dear Mr Vice-President,

On behalf of the European EO services sector, I am writing concerning the allocation of frequency bands specifically concerning Copernicus Sentinels 1 and 3.

The ITU is discussing a proposal from the US to allow terrestrial use of the 5350-5470Mhz band. Studies show that this is incompatible with the operation of the C-band SAR and Altimeter on the Sentinels and that it would severely damage their performance.

This is of direct concern to the European EO services industry which is looking forward to using data from these satellites to develop further their business. If the US proposals, supported by some other nations, are accepted it will greatly damage the downstream services which will rely on these data and undermine efforts by the European industry.

Our recent survey of the industry shows revenues across Europe of over €750m and over 5000 highly skilled jobs. The sector is growing, despite the economic and financial crisis, at a rate of over 10% per annum. Whilst we cannot distinguish the specific figures associated with C-band radar, this is a strong European competence which does not exist in the US and we can anticipate a severe threat to this competence if the quality of the data is compromised.

We are somewhat reassured to learn that CEPT considers that sharing of the band is not possible but recognising the weight of the US interest remain concerned that this will be a difficult battle.

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I feel sure that your services in DG Enterprise are already reacting given the risk to the public investment in Copernicus but wish to add our voice to the debate and ask that you bring this matter to the attention of those responsible for frequency regulation in DG Connect to insist that these proposals are rejected.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Sawyer', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Sawyer
EARSC Secretary General