

## **EARSC Statement on the Uniform Formats for the National Restoration Plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation**

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](#)) is a trade association representing over 135 members across Europe in the Earth Observation (EO) industry. EARSC is closely following the EU activities relating to the Nature Restoration Regulation, and welcomes the uniform format outlined to guide Member States in the development of their national restoration plans under the legislation.

Given the large-scale effects of the Nature Restoration Regulation and its impact on ecosystems and stakeholders across Europe, in many domains, EARSC acknowledges the importance of streamlining and providing guidance to Member States for the most effective and efficient implementation.

Earth observation data and services will be a key component of this implementation. As such, EARSC supports the focus on digital tools and geospatial data as part of the uniform format and urges the Commission and relevant stakeholders to ensure that Member States have the necessary resources to implement effectively, using the most applicable and valuable geospatial data and services. **EARSC is preparing a document outlining the capabilities of the sector, to build on existing documentation of public sector capabilities available under the Copernicus programme, and identify opportunities for the utilisation of commercial satellite-derived data and services for relevant compliance activities under the Nature Restoration Regulation.** This will include detailed information on existing solutions from the private sector for the collection of environmental data and identify opportunities for specific thematic analysis of ground cover identified in the Nature Restoration Regulation. EARSC aims for this document to serve as a resource for relevant stakeholders, in particular those involved in the drafting and information provision for the National Restoration Plans.

High- and very high-resolution (VHR) satellite data play a crucial role for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation, providing unparalleled detail and accuracy in monitoring Europe's ecosystems. By leveraging these capabilities, national and regional authorities can assess ecosystem health across all habitat types and groups of relevance to the legislation, track restoration progress, enforce protective measures, and support a science-based approach to ecological recovery. The level of detail provided by VHR imagery enables data-driven decision-making, ensuring that restoration efforts are both effective and measurable. Optical and radar satellites offer critical monitoring capabilities, tracking biodiversity recovery, habitat changes, and climate resilience—key indicators for assessing progress toward the EU's nature restoration targets. **Contributing with frequently refreshed (up to daily), global, highly detailed (up to sub-meter per pixel) data, commercial satellite imagery can offer additional spectral, spatial, and temporal resolutions to allow EU policymakers and Member State authorities to gain detailed**

**and near real time insights into the state and health of forests regionally, in Europe, and globally.** Investing in VHR satellite monitoring is therefore not just an improvement in technical capacity—it is a strategic commitment to achieving the **EU’s vision of large-scale ecosystem restoration and climate resilience.**

With only six years remaining until 2030, the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation plays a crucial role in fulfilling the targets of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which calls for urgent action to restore and protect ecosystems. The European Union must understand and leverage all available resources. By collaborating with providers of existing data and solutions, the EU can effectively utilize proven technologies and methodologies while maximizing efficiency. **Complementary commercial Earth Observation missions, designed to be interoperable with Copernicus datasets, have a crucial role to play in enhancing Copernicus data and information.**

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation emphasizes the urgent need to restore and protect ecosystems across Europe to address biodiversity loss and climate change. **Leveraging the combined power of public and commercial datasets and tools significantly enhances Europe's monitoring capabilities and is crucial for implementing the legislation’s ambitious restoration targets, supporting effective environmental stewardship, and promoting sustainable land and marine management practices globally.**