

## **EARSC Statement for the European Commission Consultation on the EU environmental law – 2025 implementation review (EIR)**

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](#)) is a trade association representing over 135 company members across Europe in the **Earth Observation (EO) industry**.<sup>1</sup> EARSC welcomes the European Commission's efforts to involve stakeholders in the formulation of new regulations on environmental spatial data and access, provide technical assistance, and facilitate the exchange of best practices.

As the EU ambitiously pursues its Green Deal objectives, it is crucial to utilize various tools, with Earth observation (EO) emerging as a pivotal instrument in addressing the challenges highlighted in the EU environmental law – 2025 implementation review. The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) aims to raise awareness about implementation gaps and seek solutions, a goal that aligns closely with the potential of EO to provide essential data and insights.

The **Copernicus component of the EU Space Programme<sup>2</sup> coupled with EO commercial missions**, delivers critical information to facilitate the green and digital twin transitions, essential for effective environmental governance and addressing the issues identified in the EIR. Satellite-derived data and services enhance environmental understanding and drive decision-making processes, contributing to better implementation of EU environmental legislation.

**Earth observation significantly enhances environmental monitoring and provides indispensable insights to support stakeholders in decision-making processes.** This capability aligns with the EIR's objective of enabling evidence-based policies, facilitating risk assessment, and identifying areas for conservation and restoration. Additionally, Earth

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<sup>1</sup>**Earth Observation (EO)** refers to the use of remote sensing technologies to monitor land, marine (seas, rivers, lakes) and atmosphere. Satellite-based EO relies on the use of satellite-mounted payloads to gather imaging data about the Earth's characteristics. The images are then processed and analysed in order to extract different types of information that can serve a very wide range of applications and industries. Ref. [EUSPA](#)

<sup>2</sup> **Copernicus** is the Earth Observation component of the European Union's space programme, looking at our planet and its environment for the benefit of Europe's citizens. [Copernicus](#).

observation fosters cross-border collaboration by offering transboundary data that is crucial for addressing shared environmental concerns, essential for the multi-level collaboration emphasized in the EIR.

Integrating EO data with other types of data, such as socioeconomic or infrastructure data, provides a holistic understanding of environmental issues and their societal impacts, aligning with the objectives of the Green Deal and the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. This integrated approach supports the EIR's goal of improving knowledge and links among relevant policies to deliver a better environment for Europeans.

Leveraging Earth observation data and other digital data initiatives enables policymakers to effectively address environmental challenges and facilitate the transition to a more sustainable economy. **EARSC fully supports the integration of new monitoring practices, such as the use of satellite-derived data and value-added services, as operational solutions to bolster the Environmental Implementation Review.** EARSC stands ready to collaborate on achieving this objective and to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the capacity to address environmental issues, ensuring a healthier environment by closing implementation gaps and improving environmental governance.