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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 8 March 2006
C(2006)673

COMMISSION DECISION

**creating a Bureau for
Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)**

COMMISSION DECISION

creating a Bureau for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Whereas:

- (1) The objective of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative is to provide on a sustained basis reliable and timely services related to environment and security issues in support of policy needs.
- (2) The need was expressed at the Gothenburg European Council of June 2001 and in the Council Resolution of 13 November 2001 on the launch of the initial period of GMES¹ according to which an operational and autonomous European capability for GMES is to be achieved by 2008. In its Communication² of February 2004 the Commission outlined the strategic role of GMES in the development of the European Union's role as a global actor and identified elements for its implementation. In its Resolution on the action plan for implementing the European Space Policy, the European Parliament expressed support for the introduction of GMES³. GMES has been announced as a European Union flagship⁴.
- (3) GMES services should support EU environmental and security policy development, monitoring and implementation from the local, regional and EU level to the global level. The beneficiaries of the services can be EU institutions and bodies, as well as local, regional to global institutions involved in research, monitoring and implementation.
- (4) GMES will be developed in steps as an EU-led initiative through the introduction of pilot phase services, starting with three fast track services (land monitoring, marine, emergency response services) by 2008. Other services will follow - with several themes already identified to date⁵.
- (5) GMES is to make an important contribution to the civil security needs of the European Union. In addition, it is to provide opportunities for additional capabilities for the European Security and Defence Policy. All possible civil and military synergies should be pursued to ensure a better use of resources, in full complementarity with the European Union Satellite Centre which is already operational in this area.

¹ OJ C 350, 11.12.2001, p.4.

² COM (2004) 65 final.

³ OJ C 96E, 21.4.2004, p.75.

⁴ COM (2005) 208 final

⁵ COM (2005) 565 final

- (6) GMES should support the development of an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community, on which the Commission has presented a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the European Council (INSPIRE)⁶.
- (7) GMES will be at the centre of a series of partnerships in Europe and will be an opportunity for international cooperation initiatives. As it is an initiative of the European Union, such partnerships need to be defined at the EU level, including the role of agencies, Member States, value added services industry (including small and medium-sized enterprises) and especially user communities. Close liaison with those partners and others with an interest in GMES should be maintained.
- (8) GMES is the main EU contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems 10-Year Implementation Plan.
- (9) One key element of GMES is the establishment of appropriate management structures linked to the different phases of the initiative. The management structure for GMES should be sufficiently open to be able to evolve towards arrangements associating new participants including EU Institutions, the European Union Satellite Centre, other organisations, and Member States.
- (10) Commission services represent a significant user of geospatial data. Existing demand at EU level is growing. Demand should be progressively aggregated through the work of an appropriate management structure. For that purpose, a specialised core team, the Bureau for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), hereinafter referred to as the “Bureau”, should be created within the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of the Commission and its tasks should be defined.
- (11) The eventual organisational status of the Bureau in the Commission’s organisation chart will be determined through the relevant procedures, without incidence on the Community budget.
- (12) The Bureau should contribute to the long-term sustainability of GMES. It should aggregate Commission user needs and demand, enabling GMES to evolve gradually from research and development towards a more user-driven and user-sustained approach.
- (13) The Bureau should develop measures aimed at stimulating the growth of services at local, regional and European levels.
- (14) To ensure efficient management, the Bureau should perform its tasks through an annual work programme.
- (15) A Steering Committee representing the Commission services which are current or potential users of GMES should provide guidance to the Bureau in its tasks.
- (16) The Bureau should use the support of the Joint Research Centre, which has acquired experience in many areas related to GMES and the mission of which is to provide scientific and technical support to other Commission services.

⁶ COM (2004) 516 final

- (17) In accordance with the Framework Agreement between the European Community and the European Space Agency⁷ (the EC-ESA Agreement) and with the orientations of the ‘Space Council’ established under that Agreement, the Bureau should use the support of the European Space Agency, as appropriate.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Chapter I

The Bureau for GMES

Article 1 Creation

A Bureau for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), hereinafter referred to as the “Bureau”, is created within the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry of the Commission. The Bureau shall operate from 1 June 2006 for a period of three years.

Article 2 Objectives

The Bureau shall propose a work programme to the Steering Committee on an annual basis. The work programme shall be based on the following objectives:

- (1) development of a federated and structured demand for GMES services supporting Commission tasks;
- (2) development of a co-ordinated implementation strategy for the introduction and management of GMES services, initially as pilot services, and notably the fast-track services;
- (3) development of a funding framework for the implementation and operation of Commission GMES-related tasks;
- (4) Ensuring coherence between the evolution of GMES and the effective implementation of research and development activities provided for in the RTD Framework Programme;
- (5) Promotion and establishment of a structured dialogue with GMES stakeholders;
- (6) Raising the profile of GMES with potential users and with the general public.

⁷ COM (2004) 85 final/2

Article 3
Conceptual tasks

The conceptual tasks of the Bureau shall consist of the following:

- (1) establishing the focal point for the co-ordination of GMES related activities of the Commission;
- (2) identifying priorities related to GMES activities;
- (3) consolidating and updating Commission needs and corresponding technical requirements;
- (4) developing a data policy and mechanisms to ensure long-term access to data and sharing, taking into account and supporting the implementation of the Community rules concerning the infrastructure for spatial information in the Community;
- (5) establishing relations with a broad range of providers and users leading to identification of an overall GMES management structure;
- (6) developing partnerships based on international cooperation, including strengthening relations in the framework of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems;
- (7) developing awareness and communication activities;
- (8) developing the next phase going beyond Commission needs to include other European Union institutions and bodies.

Article 4
Technical support tasks

The technical support tasks of the Bureau shall consist of the following:

- (1) interfacing with user Commission services in order to define their GMES service requirements and analyse their geospatial information needs;
- (2) providing technical support and monitoring the evolution of GMES, including existing and future GMES Services;
- (3) establishing additional operational GMES services including content, procedures and infrastructure;
- (4) ensuring, in coordination with data providers, that geospatial data from space-borne and in-situ observing systems are available to meet the requirements of GMES services; and pursuing the integration of space and in-situ data sets;
- (5) reviewing the operation of the GMES pilot services in accordance with a unique and agreed methodology (review process).

Article 5
Research and Technology Development tasks

The research and technology development tasks of the Bureau shall consist of the following:

- (1) providing support to the development and exploitation of on-going and future GMES-related research and technology development activities;
- (2) monitoring relevant research and technology development activities undertaken by other actors.

Chapter II

Steering Committee

Article 6
Creation

The Bureau shall receive guidance from a Steering Committee consisting of Commission services which are users of GMES services.

Article 7
Role

The role of the Steering Committee shall consist of:

- (1) providing guidance to the Bureau for the tasks set out in Articles 3, 4 and 5;
- (2) approving the work programme proposed by the Bureau on an annual basis;
- (3) monitoring progress;
- (4) proposing the adjustment of priorities and organisational structure of the Bureau to accommodate changing needs for GMES.

Article 8
Composition

- (1) The Steering Committee shall consist of the following directors-general or their delegated representative:
 - (a) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development,
 - (b) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs,
 - (c) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for External Relations,

- (d) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Development,
 - (e) the Director-General of the European Humanitarian Aid Office,
 - (f) the Director-General of the Europe-Aid Co-operation Office,
 - (g) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport,
 - (h) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security,
 - (i) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union,
 - (j) the Director-General of the European Anti-Fraud Office,
 - (k) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
 - (l) the Director-General of Eurostat,
 - (m) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Research,
 - (n) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Information Society and Media,
 - (o) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Environment,
 - (p) the Director-General of the Joint Research Centre,
 - (q) the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry.
- (2) The Chairman of the Steering Committee shall be the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry.
- (3) The Steering Committee may grant observer status to other organisations, EU institutions and the European Union Satellite Centre.

Chapter III

Staff of the Bureau

Article 9

Assignment of Commission staff

- (1) Staff from the Directorates-General listed in the table in the Annex shall be assigned to work in or with the Bureau. The initial resources shall be as specified in the table. Further assignments may be made by Directorates-General represented in the Steering Committee.
- (2) Administrative arrangements shall be concluded among Directorates-General providing staff to the Bureau as appropriate.

Article 10
Specific arrangements

- (1) The Bureau shall use the technical and administrative support of the Joint Research Centre on the basis of an administrative arrangement.
- (2) The Bureau shall use, as appropriate, the technical support of the European Space Agency on the basis of the EC-ESA Framework Agreement or a specific arrangement entered into under that Agreement.
- (3) Experts may be seconded to the Bureau by EU institutions, the European Union Satellite Centre, national entities, the European Space Agency, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Metrological Satellites and other international organisations, at the discretion of the Commission.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission

Annex

Table referred to in Article 9(1)

Resources DG ENTR:	
1 A (Head of Bureau)	ENTR
3 A	ENTR
1 B	ENTR
2 C	ENTR
Contributions of other services:	
4 A	JRC
1 A	ENV
1 A°	RTD
2 A°	INFSO
0.5 A°	AGRI
TOTAL :	
12.5 A	
1 B	
2 C	

° It is anticipated that these resources will be assigned to support the GMES Bureau (no formal detachment)