



The evolving context of Earth observation activities in Europe

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The European space context is currently in transition with the emergence of the European Union (EU) as a new actor and driving force in European space affairs. This is particularly noticeable in the domain of Earth observation with among others the development of the flagship programme Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). Furthermore, a series of recent political milestones and events are providing new impetus and direction to European activities.

This paper aims to provide insights on the evolving European context in the domain of Earth observation at a political level and will cover the latest developments such as the European Space Policy, the ESA Council at Ministerial Level, the Council Resolution on Space Policy, the Commission communication on GMES and the European Parliament resolution on the European Space Policy. Finally, future issues to consider will also be outlined.