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THE ITALIAN SPACE ASSETS FOR EU MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

Abstract

Integrated Maritime Surveillance is the effective understanding of all activities carried out at sea that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment of the European Union and its Member States, according to the Integrated Maritime Policy and the European Maritime Security Strategy of the European Union. The geopolitical scenarios for the period 2014-2020 relating to the Mediterranean area such as the instability of the North African and Middle East governments, led the European Commission to identify the enhancement of integrated border management as one of the most important areas of interest. In the EU Maritime borders the deployment of surveillance mechanisms supported by technical equipment and specialized operators has had an enormous impact on the security levels achieved during the last years. In this sense, the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) for Security Research has been used since 2008 to foster several initiatives such as the CLOSEYE and EUCISE2020 projects. CLOSEYE comes to life with the aim of providing the EU with an operational and technical framework that increases situational awareness and improves the reaction capability of authorities surveying the external borders of the EU. As the first Pre-Operational Validation project in FP7 security theme, CLOSEYE will pursue the validation of innovative services applicable to the surveillance of the EU Maritime Borders in real operational environment following the Common Application of Surveillance Tools concept, established by EUROSUR. Enhancing information exchange between maritime surveillance authorities is one of the other key strategic objectives of the Union under the Integrated Maritime Policy. On this concept is based EUCISE2020, a Security Research project aiming to achieve the pre-operational Information Sharing between the maritime authorities of the European States. EUCISE2020 is an important milestone in the roadmap for implementation of the European CISE – Common Information Sharing Environment, and it represents the European test-bed for the maritime Common Information Sharing Environment in the 2020 perspective. In this paper we describe the exploitation of the two main Italian space systems provided by Italian Space Agency (ASI) for Satellite Earth Observation and Communications and maritime surveillance services: COSMO-SkyMed constellation and Athena-Fidus satellite. Thanks to the opera-

tional implementation of these National assets, ASI will put in place services which offer a substantial improvement in Maritime surveillance applications.