IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
International Cooperation in Earth Observations (1)

Author: Mr. Giancarlo Filippazzo
European Space Agency (ESA), Italy

# THE COPERNICUS SPACE COMPONENT COORDINATION MODEL, BETWEEN ADAPTABILITY AND RIGOR

**Abstract**

In October 1998 European space actors (Agencies, EUMETSAT and the European Commission) drafted the Baveno Manifesto laying the foundations of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Programme. GMES has since evolved into today's Copernicus Programme that entered its operational phase following over a decade of development activities. The Copernicus Space Component is the space-based data acquisition element of the Copernicus Programme entrusted to ESA by the EU, and it comprises the Sentinel earth observation satellites and payloads, additional missions contributing data to the programme and the related ground and data distribution infrastructure. Article 30 (a) of the EU Space Programme Regulation and Article 5 of the ESA European Commission Contribution Agreement specifically entrust ESA with the "Coordination of the Copernicus Space Component and the implementation of the Copernicus Space Component and its evolution (based on user requirements coordinated by the Commission), design, development, and construction, including the operations of the Copernicus Space Component and related procurement, except when done by other entities, and, where appropriate, access to third party data for Copernicus". The large number of elements that constitute the Copernicus Space Component, the large number and variety of partners involved, and the multiple funding sources, require a complex coordination effort in order to ensure that the overall program objectives are met in an efficient and effective manner. The ESA Copernicus Space Office is at the heart of this the coordination effort coordinating internal teams across the Agency while interacting with external stakeholder in order to properly consider evolving needs and concerns. This paper illustrates the organization and processes in place within the Directorate of Earth Observation of the European Space Agency that allow effective coordinated development, procurement, planning, risk management, and reporting for the Copernicus Space Component while fostering adaptability to new political priorities.