

## **EC Statement GEO XII**

- The European Commission continues to provide direct support for the implementation of the GEOSS through the Copernicus Programme and Horizon 2020.
- Two dedicated Copernicus satellites are already in orbit: Sentinel 1A which provides radar imagery of the Earth surface and was launched on 3 April 2014 and Sentinel 2A which provides optical imagery to monitor variability in land surface conditions and was launched on 22 June this year.
- A third Sentinel mission, Sentinel 3A, will be launched at the end of this year. Sentinel-3 will have a strong focus on the ocean, and will measure sea-surface topography, sea- and land-surface temperature and ocean- and land-surface colour with high-end accuracy and reliability.
- Sentinel satellite data and Copernicus service information is available open and free of charge through our website 'Copernicus.eu' as a European contribution to building GEOSS.
- Through Horizon 2020 we will launch in 2016 an ambitious programme in collaboration with international partners to develop an integrated observation system in the Arctic region, following the effort we are making in the Atlantic Ocean through the ATLANTOS project.
- We also have made provision in 2016 for a project in the Mediterranean Sea to move towards an integrated Mediterranean Sea Observing System.

- Finally we plan for 2017 a prominent action towards developing countries to generate Earth observation services for the monitoring of agricultural production in Africa. This topic aims to contribute to providing food supply projection and agricultural risk assessment for Africa and is closely linked to the implementation of the GEOGLAM and AFRIGE OSS initiatives.