



# Security Service



**T**he Copernicus Programme is an EU Programme managed by the European Commission (EC) and implemented in partnership with the Member States, the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the European Centre for medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), EU Agencies and Mercator Océan. The Programme is aimed at developing a set of European information services based on satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.

## What is the Copernicus Security Service?

The Copernicus Security Service is one part of the Copernicus Programme. It aims to support related European Union policies by providing information in response to the security challenges Europe is facing, namely improving crisis prevention, preparedness and response capacities in the following key areas:

- Support to EU External Actions (implemented in partnership with the European Union Satellite Centre and the Emergency Management Service);
- Maritime surveillance (implemented in partnership with the European Maritime Safety Agency, EMSA);
- Border surveillance (implemented in partnership with FRONTEX).

## Support to EU External Actions

Europe has a responsibility to promote stable conditions for human and economic development, human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms. In this context, it assists non-EU countries in situations of crisis or emerging crisis, for instance by undertaking peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention activities or assessing risks for global and trans-regional threats leading to destabilisation.

The Copernicus Service in Support to EU External Actions (SEA), operated by the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen), can provide rapid, on-demand geospatial information for

monitoring of events or activities outside Europe that may have implications in European and global security.

The information provided by the SEA Service, based on space-born data, contributes to improve situational awareness and, consequently, European capacities in crisis prevention, preparedness and response. Service provision in several areas was tested and validated through two projects financed by the EU's FP7 Research Framework Programme, from 2013 to early 2015: G-NEXT, providing preoperational services and G-SEXTANT, aimed at bringing technology to a level of maturity allowing operational deployment.



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Implemented by:



Space



Consequently, SEA operations started late 2016 complementing the Satcen mission and extending the Agency's current capacities to support stakeholders in conflict prevention and risk assess and mitigation outside the EU territory.

### Maritime Surveillance

The geographical extent of the maritime areas under EU Member States' jurisdiction and the number of Member States with sea borders (23 of 28) present a challenge to surveillance operations. The challenge is significantly increased when EU activities across global oceans, such as transport and fisheries, are taken into consideration. The goal of the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service, managed by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), is to support its users by providing a better understanding and improved monitoring of activities at sea that have an impact on maritime safety and security, fisheries control, marine pollution, customs and general law enforcement as well as the overall economic interests of the EU. Recognising that human activity at sea is intrinsically dynamic, the service aims to provide timely, relevant, and targeted Earth Observation information to Member States and EU bodies. EMSA already offers a wide range of operational maritime information services to authorities in the maritime domain, and the management of the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service is a natural extension of the Agency's current capacities.



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### Border Surveillance

The border surveillance service is delivered by Frontex in the frame of EUROSUR, the information-exchange framework designed to improve the management of Europe's external borders. The service contributes to improve the situational picture at European Union's external borders and pre-frontier areas.

With the support of Copernicus, data from Earth observation satellites is combined with other surveillance sources, such as ship reporting systems and other intelligence, to support border management authorities in their efforts to assess risk and detect irregular migration and cross-border crime.

The service is fully operational since early 2016, building on the results of R&D activities funded by EU's FP7 projects launched in 2013 (SAGRES, LOBOS), which in close cooperation with Member States' National Coordination Centres, EMSA (maritime surveillance) and EUSC (land borders), have contributed to user-uptake and helped refining service specifications, along a joint Concept of Operations.

The border surveillance component of the Copernicus Security Service complement the services already delivered by Frontex within and outside the framework of EUROSUR and significantly enhances the Agency's intelligence capabilities based on space-borne observations.

### More information

Users can find out more about the support provided to EU External Actions, Maritime Surveillance, Border Surveillance on the following Copernicus websites:

Support to External Action: <https://www.satcen.europa.eu/services/copernicus>

Maritime Surveillance: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/copernicus.html>

Border Surveillance: <http://frontex.europa.eu/news/frontex-to-implement-border-surveillance-services-as-part-of-copernicus-Z1r4A0>