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Press Release

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CNES hosted SEA User Workshop on Copernicus Security Services for Member States and the European Union

Tuesday 11 December, CNES, hosted the SEA User Workshop on Copernicus Security Services for Member States and the European Union at its head office in Paris Les Halles. The workshop, organized by the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen), focused on the Copernicus Service in Support to EU External Action (SEA), and was held in partnership with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) and the European Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

The European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative in 2001 to encourage development of operational services offering easy access to environmental information. The aim is to rationalize usage of environment and security data derived from multiple sources in order to provide reliable information and services when needed. Renamed Copernicus in 2012, the programme pools all data from Earth-observation satellites and in-situ instruments to deliver a comprehensive and synoptic view of the planet. Copernicus relies on the space assets and ground resources of member states participating in the programme. CNES is already playing a central role in this team effort by providing satellites like SPOT, Jason and Pleiades.

The aim of the workshop was to offer a forum for current and potential future users at operational agencies and in government in order to reinforce the existing ecosystem and foster uptake of Copernicus security services through closer interaction with users and stakeholders. Users had the opportunity to present how these services contribute to their operational activities and the benefits they afford, notably for maritime safety and security and other operations, as well as possible evolutions tailored to users' priorities.

SatCen, as entrusted entity for the Copernicus Service in Support to EU External Action (SEA), coordinates this part of the EU's Earth observation programme and provides relevant information services, thus supporting the EU in its operations and interests outside EU territory. CNES, which is active at various levels of the international disaster management process, gave a talk on crisis management at the closing session of the workshop.

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