



European Geosciences Union (EGU)
EGU Executive Office • Luisenstr. 37 • 80333 Munich • Germany

Mr. José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

Date 15.05.2012 | Page 1/1

Dear Mr. Barroso,

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in Geo-, Planetary and Space Sciences for the benefit of humanity. It is the premier union of geoscientists in Europe and attracts more than 10,000 scientists each year at its General Assembly. Furthermore, the EGU publishes a diverse portfolio of 14 open-access journals, organizes a number of thematic meetings, and fosters and supports various education and outreach activities.

The Geoscience research and its future progress are strongly dependent on adequate and timely in-situ, airborne and spaceborne data. In this regard, scientists rely largely on data providers such as the national space agencies and the European Space Agency (ESA).

For example data from ESA's Envisat satellite were instrumental for many new findings and are intensively being used in various disciplines represented by the EGU such as Energy, Resources and Environment (ERE), Natural Hazards (NH), Atmospheric Sciences (AS) or Planetary and Solar System Sciences (PS). Additionally these data were relevant to a number of environmental conventions and protocols, e.g. in the field of atmospheric composition monitoring the UNFCCC for ghg gases, LRTAP for air pollutants and the Montreal Protocol for ozone depleting substances. Therefore the recent broken communication link and probable loss of the satellite is of great concern for the EGU. Furthermore, the EGU was made aware that the Sentinel missions, meant to provide data continuity of ERS, SPOT-like and Envisat observations, cannot be launched until sufficient funding for their operations is secured.

The significant data gap which would result from the loss of Envisat and the potential launch delay of the Sentinel missions due to the unsecured operational funding is considered detrimental for many ongoing research activities. Given the broad expertise held by the EGU's members and their reliance on continuous, accurate satellite data for work of potentially great environmental and social consequence, we strongly urge all parties to come to an agreement that would allow the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative to proceed as scheduled, starting with the launch preparation of Sentinel-1a next month.

Kind regards,

Günter Blösch
EGU Vice-President

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