



**THE GROWING USE OF GMES  
ACROSS EUROPE'S REGIONS**

**Launch Event**

**Wednesday, 10 October 2012**

**from 19.00 to 22.00**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat, 60-Brussels  
Room A1G-3, Altiero Spinelli building

By registration only at <http://nereus-regions.eu/launchevent>



# Background and Context

The launch event inaugurates the joint NEREUS/ESA-publication on “*The Growing Use of GMES across Europe’s Regions*”. The publication comprises 67 illustrative articles on regional GMES uses portraying its benefits for citizens and companies and the territory. Quoting end-user experiences, the publication gives a first-hand impression on the impact of GMES on regional development. Whilst the collection is targeted at a non-specialist audience putting strong emphasis on the citizen level, communication and promotion of GMES towards the political level is another objective of the initiative. Therefore, particular efforts are made to bring the publication to the attention of politicians.

The European Parliament (EP) is chosen as an ideal forum to promote the publication for different reasons. As an EU-institution sharing with the Council the legislative power, it is a key player in the decision making at EU-level. At the same time the single members of the EP (MEPs) are linked to the citizens of their respective electoral constituency, in many cases located in a region member of NEREUS. Thus MEPs have on the one hand a special affinity to their respective regional level but on the other hand are involved in policy making at EU-level. Last but not least, the EP is a strong supporter of continuing GMES as an EU-funded program and of reintegrating it within the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020).

Members of the European Parliament together with representatives of the European Commission will be actively involved in the panel discussion. To animate the debate, end users will also be involved in the discussion by presenting concrete examples of regional space applications that can support institutions to face different socio-economic and territorial challenges. As model examples, the Danube macro-region and the Warsaw Metropolitan area will be represented.

## Objectives

- The event aims at bringing the publication to the attention of Members of the European Parliament, representatives of relevant EU-institutions, the NEREUS and space communities, and the EU regional authorities;
- The event showcases regional involvement in applying and developing GMES services and products
- The event aims at making MEPs aware of the impact of GMES for their respective regions by referring to concrete GMES uses in different domains and involving their regions of origin;
- While the panel debate touches upon GMES uses in the context of public policies and overarching cross-cutting global and societal challenges, to quote strategies like Europe 2020, Climate Change and Aging Society as examples, it wishes to make politicians aware that GMES brings tangible benefits to their respective policy areas and needs to be equipped with considerable financial resources;
- The event wishes to raise awareness of MEPs who are not traditionally advocating space topics about the impact of space for cross sectorial policy areas.

# Programme

## PART I: Introduction

- 19:00** **N. Glante, Member of the European Parliament**  
*Welcome*
- 19:10** **V. Liebig, Director ESA and A. Wells, Vice-President NEREUS**  
*Short Introduction and findings of the initiative "The Growing Use of GMES across Europe's Regions"*
- 19:30** **B. Medgyesy, Government Commissioner**  
*The EU Danube strategy: main challenges and opportunities*

## PART II: Panel discussion: the impact of GMES at regional level

- 19:45** **Panel Moderator: H. Eyres, Financial Times Columnist**
- **V. Prodi, Member of the European Parliament**
  - **A. Patriciello, Member of the European Parliament**
  - **T. Sławiński, Deputy Director, Mazovian Regional Planning Office**
  - **P. Pécseli, Director, Central-Transdanubian Water Authority**
  - **R. Schulte-Braucks, Head of GMES bureau, DG ENTR, European Commission**
  - **L. Dijkstra, Deputy Head of Analyst Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission**
- 20.15** **Debate with the audience**

## PART III: Cocktail

- 21:00** **Cocktail**

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Conference language: English  
Refreshments will be served throughout the event

