

## **MARINE BOARD –ESF STATEMENT ON GMES AND GEOSS**

The Marine Board - ESF has analysed the GMES and GEOSS reports and agreed on the following statements:

- The Marine Board stresses the importance of the GMES and GEOSS perspectives for the ocean, because of the ocean's crucial role for our planet, and in particular for climate, for carbon and water cycles and for biodiversity, and because of its large socio-economic importance, whether concerning living, mineral and energy resources for mankind, or concerning usage of the sea, such as transport, leisure or defence activities;
- The Marine Board also stresses the importance of ocean information systems as an infrastructure in support of specific and general European policies, including fisheries, transport, marine security and environment;
- The Marine Board recalls that the issue of ocean operational observing and information systems has been analysed in depth during the past decade within the framework of GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System); in particular the Marine Board supports the recommendations of EuroGOOS;
- The Marine Board considers that marine sciences and technology are mature enough for the creation of operational services to be readily feasible, as demonstrated by many regional or global services at operational or pre-operational states, and by a number of GMES projects already funded by the EU Framework Programme and ESA;
- The Marine Board stresses that the most efficient way to produce appropriate information systems for the ocean requires integration of *in situ* and satellite observations of many different ocean parameters, through dynamical models of the ocean;
- The Marine Board recognizes the need to consider increase in funding and launching recurrent ocean observing satellites and *in situ* (moored and mobile) devices to maintain continuity and develop the extent of crucial ocean observations;
- **The Marine Board regrets that the GMES Report seriously underestimates the crucial need to maintain and develop *in situ* observing systems for the ocean, and recommends the costs involved by *in situ* systems must be seriously reconsidered;**
- The Marine Board urges the Commission to work with the Member States, to establish a funding mechanism to support operational satellite operations (e.g. with Eumetsat) and *in situ* monitoring to ensure continuity;
- The Marine Board recognizes the need for global ocean information systems to access large computer capacities and supports the view that Europe should establish a facility to provide such capacities;
- The Marine Board stresses the need for ocean information systems to be interfaced in a flexible way with each other and with other systems, in particular those concerning the atmosphere and the coasts, at appropriate space and time scales;
- **The Marine Board stresses the importance for GMES information systems to be intrinsically linked to research and technology development as an essential means for their sustainability; indeed research and technology inputs will help improve the observing and information systems and address new requirements, and will help solve issues raised by the systems; research teams should be considered as customers of the GMES systems for studying the ocean; access to the GMES data and services for research teams should be organised in an open and cost effective way. Accordingly, provision to support GMES related research and development should be consolidated within the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> EU Research Framework Programmes, as well as national programmes;**
- The Marine Board stresses that European GMES systems must be connected to the Global Earth Observing system of systems as described in the GEOSS implementation plan; and articulated with the European component of GOOS;
- The Marine Board stresses that all studies on such an information system should result in a high socio-economic benefit and effective cost-benefit ratio;
- The Marine Board recognises the present fragmentation of the European marine science and technology community, and states its willingness to act toward improved cooperation and coordination of this community; this will in particular help create efficient GMES systems.