

GMES OPERATIONAL CAPACITY WORKSHOP

**OPENING
25-26 MARCH, 2010**

**Mr. Aleksandar Tsvetkov - Minister of Transport, Information Technology
and Communications
Opening statement**



Dear ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to welcome you at this important event in Bulgaria and to wish you successful and beneficial work.

In his statement, the Bulgarian prime-minister, Mr. Borissov, announced that a few days ago a decision on restructuring of the organization in our country with regard to the Space policy has been taken and accordingly the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth are nominated as coordinators of our activities in that field.

During the past few years the former State Agency for IT and Communications and the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications, as its successor were engaged in the co-ordination activities in this area.

It is my privilege to inform you briefly about our efforts and main fields of activities with regard to the subject of today meeting.

Our immediate tasks in the period from 2006 until now was the establishment of spatial database with respect to the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive and the components of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)

Initiative. With respect to the methodology, we consider this Directive and the GMES programme as two supplementing initiatives.

The projects under the GMES programme and in particular the prevention and management of risk were implemented in accordance with the best European practices for Public-Private Partnership with some municipalities, leading scientific institutes and non-governmental organizations. The above projects are interconnected with collection of information through remote sensing for monitoring and establishment of data base to be used for prevention of risk from natural disasters. The purpose of this exercise was the provision of services and documents to the decision-making authorities.

In brief, until now there are four implemented projects in different risk fields from natural disasters, and namely flood risks, forest fire risks, forecast and evaluation of earthquake damages. In their work the experts applied the most advanced technologies and experience of leading European companies in the field of provision and processing of satellite images, for example, the SPOT 5 satellite. Technologies of the EC Joint Research Centre were also used. Significant results have been achieved with respect to data processing, such as creation of maps, tables, prevention and evaluation of possible damages.

We could proudly report that the establishment of the necessary technical and administrative capacity in the field of global monitoring for environment and security was achieved, and it will develop in the future and will solve important issues related to the successful management decisions.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you successful work!