

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Space Task Force

Working document of the European External Action Service

of 02/07/2018

EEAS Reference	EEAS(2018) 770
Distribution marking	<i>Limited</i>
To [and/or GSC distribution acronyms]	Political and Security Committee (PSC) COSDP PESC COPS
Title / Subject	Conclusions/recommendations on "SatCen tomorrow"

Delegations will find herewith the set of **conclusions/recommendations on "SatCen tomorrow"** approved by the EU Satellite Centre (SatCen) Board on 29 June 2018.

The SatCen is a key instrument for CFSP/CSDP that contributes to the objectives of the EU Global Strategy and responds to the invitation of the Council to *"reinforce the network of EU and Member States' structures contributing to autonomous situational awareness in order to better inform the EU's prevention and decision-making capacity"*¹.

The need for a long-term vision for the SatCen had already been recognised for a long time. The evolution required from the SatCen to continue fulfilling its mission in a fast changing environment poses organisational, financial and technical challenges.

On 30 November 2017, the SatCen Board started a discussion on the future of the SatCen on the basis of a food-for-thought paper presented by the Chair.

After over six months of debate the Board adopted the set of recommendations/conclusions in Annex and invited SatCen and the EEAS to present a plan with options (including financial implications) to the Board within a period of one year.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the PSC, which “exercise(s) political supervision over SatCen’s activities and issue(s) political guidance on SatCen’s priorities” pursuant to Article 3 of Council Decision 2014/401/CFSP² endorses the **conclusions/recommendations on "SatCen tomorrow"**.

¹ Council conclusions on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence (14 November 2016)

² Council Decision 2014/401/CFSP of 26 June 2014 on the European Union Satellite Centre and repealing Joint Action 2001/555/CFSP on the establishment of a European Union Satellite Centre (OJ L 188, 27.6.2014, p. 73).

Conclusions/recommendations on "SatCen tomorrow"

THE EU SATCEN BOARD:

- With this set of conclusions/recommendations, DEFINES a vision for the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen) in the framework of the EU Global Strategy, the Space Strategy for Europe and the relevant Council conclusions, in particular those of 14th November 2016 and of 13th November 2017. This will lay the basis on which SatCen and the EEAS will explore with Member States and the Commission how to implement it;
- INVITES SatCen and the EEAS to present a plan with options (including financial implications) to the Board within a period of one year;
- NOTES that the SatCen is instrumental to the EU decision-making and actions in the field of CFSP and in particular the CSDP and should thus be preserved and strengthened in the future;
- RECOGNISES that the core task of SatCen is the provision of actionable geospatial intelligence, as referred to in Council Decision 2014/401/CFSP;
- Therefore CONSIDERS that SatCen should be further integrated in the intelligence community at the EU's and Member States' level;
- NOTES the low uptake of SatCen products by the EU CSDP missions and operations;
- CONSIDERS that the support to EU CSDP missions and operations is clearly part of the core task of the SatCen;
- Therefore INVITES SatCen and the EEAS to suggest options to increase the use of SatCen products and services by EU CSDP missions and operations, including the management of financial aspects;
- RECOMMENDS that the EEAS involves SatCen at the early stage of the CSDP missions/operations planning process;
- CONSIDERS important for SatCen and for further enhancing the European situational assessment autonomy to pursue guaranteed and timely access to both governmental and commercial data and services, notably in case of crisis;
- CONSIDERS that priority should be given to MS governmental sources and to EU commercial sources with a view to the EU strategic autonomy;
- NOTES the emergence of new paradigms in Earth Observation;
- ENCOURAGES the SatCen to keep adapting the production process and develop operational methods and tools using in particular big data / open sources and artificial intelligence; and
- RECOMMENDS that the EEAS adapts the tasking procedures as appropriate;

- RECOMMENDS expanding secure communication links to enable quick delivery of classified products and services to SatCen users, in particular the EU intelligence community, MS intelligence entities, as well as to the EU CSDP missions and operations when appropriate;
- NOTES that the exchanges enabled by those links, together with other activities such as training, exchange of SNEs and joint production will contribute to increased trust and will foster inclusion of SatCen in the intelligence community at the EU's and Member States' level;
- ENCOURAGES SatCen, without prejudice to its core task, to cooperate with the Commission and with Union Agencies, Bodies or Member States with a view to maximising synergies and complementarity particularly within the area of space and security;
- WELCOMES in particular SatCen contribution to the Copernicus programme and RECOMMENDS that SatCen improves the user uptake of the Copernicus Support to External Action (SEA);
- INVITES SatCen and the EEAS to explore with the Commission possible options for an enhanced cooperation with SatCen in the European space programme;
- ENCOURAGES SatCen to continue cooperating with third States, organisations and entities pursuant to Article 20 of the Council Decision 2014/401/CFSP for the purpose of fulfilling its mission.