

Resolution on the ECMWF contribution to GMES

(adopted by the ECMWF Council at its 75th session on 16-17 June 2011)

The ECMWF Member States,

NOTING that Member States' investment in developing ECMWF Numerical Weather Prediction Systems over more than 35 years constitutes a unique asset and an important contribution to the development of GMES;

RECALLING that ECMWF has been involved in the development of the GMES Atmosphere Service from the beginning, that it co-ordinated the pilot Integrated Projects GEMS and MACC, and that it is now, again as co-ordinator, in the final negotiation phase with the European Commission (EC) for their follow-up MACC-II;

STRESSING that the prototype GMES Atmosphere Monitoring Service is now approaching operational maturity, thanks to using the numerical prediction capabilities of ECMWF and its consortium partners from the Member States;

EMPHASIZING that the global components of the GMES Atmosphere Service were developed upon the ECMWF Integrated Forecasting System and, as a whole, constitute a unique capability for the European Union;

AWARE that the GMES Atmosphere Monitoring Service and other Service Components are expected to enter their fully operational and sustained phase from 2014;

RECALLING the decisions taken at the 70th and 71st sessions of the ECMWF Council to adopt a very favourable data policy for all GMES Core Services, and the ECMWF strategy towards engagement with GMES adopted at the 73rd session;

CONSIDERING that, for the period 2012-2014, all GMES service components will contribute to the GMES pre-operational phase, irrespective of their EC funding source, i.e. FP7 or GMES Initial Operations (GIO);

NOTING that the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011-2013) reaffirms, in its article 9, the principle of full and open access to information produced by GMES services and data collected through GMES infrastructure, subject to relevant international agreements, security restrictions and licensing conditions, including registration and acceptance of user licences;

AWARE that the GMES Emergency Management Service now includes the European Flood Alert System (EFAS), and that ECMWF has been involved in this development and is contributing by providing medium-range forecasts data to the EFAS;

NOTING that the co-operation agreement between ECMWF and the JRC that organises the provision of these data for EFAS is valid until the end of 2011;

AGREE:

- I. That, when implementing GMES service components in their operational phase, the EU should make effective use of, and benefit from, the ECMWF facility developed and funded by the ECMWF Member States;
- II. That all additional costs incurred by ECMWF for this implementation will have to be funded by the EC and that the appropriate framework from the ECMWF perspective will be a third party activity;
- III. That an appropriate framework between the EC and ECMWF will be required for implementing the operational GMES Atmosphere Monitoring Service from 2014 and organising its governance;
- IV. That in order to be ready for operational implementation in 2014, the negotiation between ECMWF and the EC for preparing the necessary framework for ECMWF involvement in the operational GMES service components needs to start immediately;
- V. That the ECMWF data policy will need to be refined for the start of the operational phase of GMES Services, taking into account the role to be played by ECMWF in GMES, with the understanding that all information produced by GMES services to which ECMWF contributes input data will be made available free of charge to all ECMWF Member States.
- VI. To extend the data policy already adopted for the delivery of ECMWF data to GMES Core services into the preoperational phase of GMES initial operations (2011-2013);
- VII. That any extension of the agreement with the EC on EFAS should be reviewed in the context of the EC plans for the GMES Emergency Management Service, with the understanding that the use of EFAS products will remain consistent with the role of the entities who have the official mandate of flood warnings in the Member States.