

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY IULIA SIMION, POLICY OFFICER WITHIN
POLICY AND SPACE RESEARCH UNIT IN DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
SMEs**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to thank again the organisers for inviting the Commission to share some key messages on the Copernicus Big data issue.

By the 2017 timeframe, when the A and B units of Sentinels-1, -2 and -3 are all in full operation, a data volume of ~10 Terabytes per day (almost 5 Petabytes per year) will be generated and should be made available to users.

This is the Copernicus 'Big Data' issue and represents a huge technological challenge and innovative solutions must be found. Furthermore, some ESA Member States are already taking national initiatives to better serve the needs of their national and regional users. This leads to a heterogeneous data access solution which is not optimal from a European user perspective or from a Commission perspective.

In order to address these issues the Commission has let a study contract to industry to analyse the problem and to specify a way forward taking account of the heterogeneous nature of the system and also addressing the challenges of the Big Data question.

The Commission recognizes the scale of the challenges posed by implementing a coherent Sentinel data access system that best serves user needs and addresses the Big Data question.

The eventual solution will be focussed on a central data access point (the Commission's own <http://copernicus.eu> web site) although the data themselves will be distributed from several repositories.

State-of-the-art solutions will be implemented to address the Big Data including cloud computing solutions and also the principle of hosting key users' own software to reduce the volume of data to be delivered. Solutions already being implemented by other agencies to address Big Data challenges will also be analysed.

Recognising the different levels of urgency of the various issues to be addressed, a stepwise solution is being adopted.

Thank you for your attention.