

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004046/25
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(15 October 2025)**

Subject: Future satellite infrastructure supporting the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), coordinated by the Commission's Joint Research Centre and closely associated with the Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, plays a crucial role in monitoring and forecasting wildfires across Europe and its neighboring regions. A task of increasing importance, as 2025's devastating wildfires have shown.

EFFIS relies on satellite imagery provided by a range of European and international partners to track the development of forest fires, and to provide real-time situational awareness to national authorities and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism's Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

However, several of the satellites currently used by EFFIS are expected to be decommissioned in the coming years. This creates a risk of potential data gaps that could undermine the system's capacity to provide continuous and reliable wildfire monitoring.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission plan to ensure the continuity of satellite-based monitoring for EFFIS once the current satellites are decommissioned?
2. What measures are being taken to secure access to alternative satellite data sources, e.g. through European missions, international cooperation or commercial providers?
3. Does the Commission anticipate any specific investments or partnerships under the Copernicus or Horizon Europe programmes, respectively, to strengthen the long-term resilience of EFFIS's satellite infrastructure?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kūbilius on behalf of the European Commission
(12 December 2025)**

The satellites of Copernicus, the EU's earth observation system feed the Copernicus Emergency Management Service, and the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) provide a continuous, multi-sensor stream for detecting, mapping, and assessing wildfires and their impacts.

As Copernicus' programme manager, the Commission aims to continue its satellite-based monitoring, e.g. by integrating Sentinel-3 data in EFFIS to mitigate satellite decommissioning impacts, or by accelerating the low latency near-real time broadcast of Sentinel 3 data for wildfire detection.

To ensure continuity, Sentinel 3 satellites will be replaced by Sentinel 3 Next Generation, featuring state-of-the-art technologies and improved data accuracy and coverage, complemented by expansion missions. These actions will strengthen the capacity of EFFIS.

Copernicus ensures access to additional satellite data sources via the Copernicus Contributing Missions, that include commercial missions, to satisfy the whole range of observational requirements.

Moreover, the Commission is evaluating the potential of the Meteosat ⁽¹⁾ Third Generation — Flexible Combined Imager data to monitor wildfires in Europe and collaborates with the Canadian Space Agency, anticipating the integration of data from the future WildFireSat constellation.

Horizon Europe supports the evolution of Copernicus services, space technology innovation and partnerships, advancing wildfire monitoring and management technologies, exemplified by CHAMELEON ⁽²⁾ or ForestFireAI ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ MeteoSat means meteorological satellites, here geostationary Satellites of the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). <https://www.eumetsat.int/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101060529>.

⁽³⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101206950>.

Copernicus is included in the European Competitiveness Fund proposal ⁽⁴⁾ that is tightly linked to research and innovation to ensure a seamless investment journey.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0555>.