



Welcome Remarks by the OPCW Deputy Director-General at the Briefing by the EU Satellite Centre

As delivered on 12 November 2019, The Hague, Netherlands

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this briefing on the European Union Satellite Centre's (EC SatCen) support to the OPCW. I would like to extend a special welcome to the Deputy- Director of the Centre, Mr Giuseppe D'Amico. I wish to also express our appreciation to Ambassador Markus Leinonen, Representative of the European External Action Service, for arranging today's meeting.

The European Union is a significant partner for the OPCW and its generous voluntary contributions over the years through EU Council Decisions have supported a broad spectrum of our projects and activities. The EU SatCen's assistance is indicative of the European Union's ongoing high-level commitment to this Organisation.

As the OPCW deployed to Syria in 2013, it was quickly apparent that satellite imagery would be essential to the effectiveness of our operations. The EU SatCen has been an indispensable partner in this regard. The satellite imagery and analytical products provided by the SatCen have enabled inspections, the Fact-Finding Mission, the Declaration Assessment Team, and the Investigation and Identification Team. Their support has made our operations in Syria more efficient, our verification activities more precise, and—most importantly—the work of our inspectors more secure.

We are grateful to the SatCen for this support and hope to strengthen this important partnership in the future. Today, you will hear in detail how the OPCW benefits from this cooperation. I am confident this briefing will enhance your knowledge of this vital area of European Union assistance.

I thank you for your attention.
