

ESSC STATEMENT ON COP25 OUTCOME

Strasbourg, December 16, 2019

The [European Space Sciences Committee](#) (ESSC) calls for vigilance after the disappointing results of the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid, Spain (COP 25, 2-13 December 2019). The European Science Foundation's (ESF) Expert Committee on space sciences and Europe's advisor on space science policy, supports the political message expressed by the EU on the urgent need for enhanced global action to combat climate change - a need which is based on recent, rigorous scientific reports. A focus for COP25 was the strong link between oceans and climate, since oceans absorb much of the heat and carbon dioxide injected into the atmosphere. Ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation are urgent environmental issues for our planet.

Satellite programmes play an increasingly important role in monitoring the effects of ongoing climate change, and can help understand the processes that result from the damaging changing conditions on our planet. The ESSC strongly supports the new EU Space Programme that has the ambition to support EU's fight against climate change and its effects. The Copernicus programme leads internationally by coordinating observation systems and the open exchange of data.

The ESSC also values the ambition of the EU to invest in research and innovation to combat climate change. This not only entails stimulating technological progress and climate-resilient development, but also investing in education and fundamental research to optimally exploit the wealth of information that is provided by Copernicus. In parallel to this, Europe and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) should continue to develop thematic platforms, such as the ESA Earth Explorers and dedicated scientific missions to observe the oceans and the carbon cycle. This will help scientists and policy makers to better understand the mechanisms that link the natural and human-driven processes with greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

The ESSC notes the failure of COP25 in meeting the expectations for a global, fast and effective action to deal with climate change and urges all the nations to continue their negotiations and to act upon the overwhelming scientific evidence that urgent measures are needed to safeguard our planet for the next generations.

Notes to Editor

European Science Foundation (ESF) – Science Connect: ESF is an expert science services organisation that provides a strong contribution to the concrete development of the European Research Area. It is building on core strengths developed over 45 years in research evaluation and project supervision and management.

European Space Sciences Committee: The European Space Sciences Committee (ESSC), established in 1974, grew from the need to give European space scientists a voice in the space arena at a time when successive US space science missions and NASA's Apollo missions dominated space research. More than 45 years later, the ESSC actively collaborates with the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Commission, national space agencies and the ESF Member Organisations. This has made ESSC Europe's most prominent space advisory body. The mission of the ESSC today is to assemble an independent forum for scientists to discuss space science issues and provide advice to the different stakeholders.

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