

MEDIA WORKSHOP 2026

JUNE, 18-19 | **ITALY**
ESA - ESRIN | FRASCATI

PROGRAM

Understanding Earth from Space: Data, AI and Communication for Climate Adaptation



ORGANIZER

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DestinE Platform



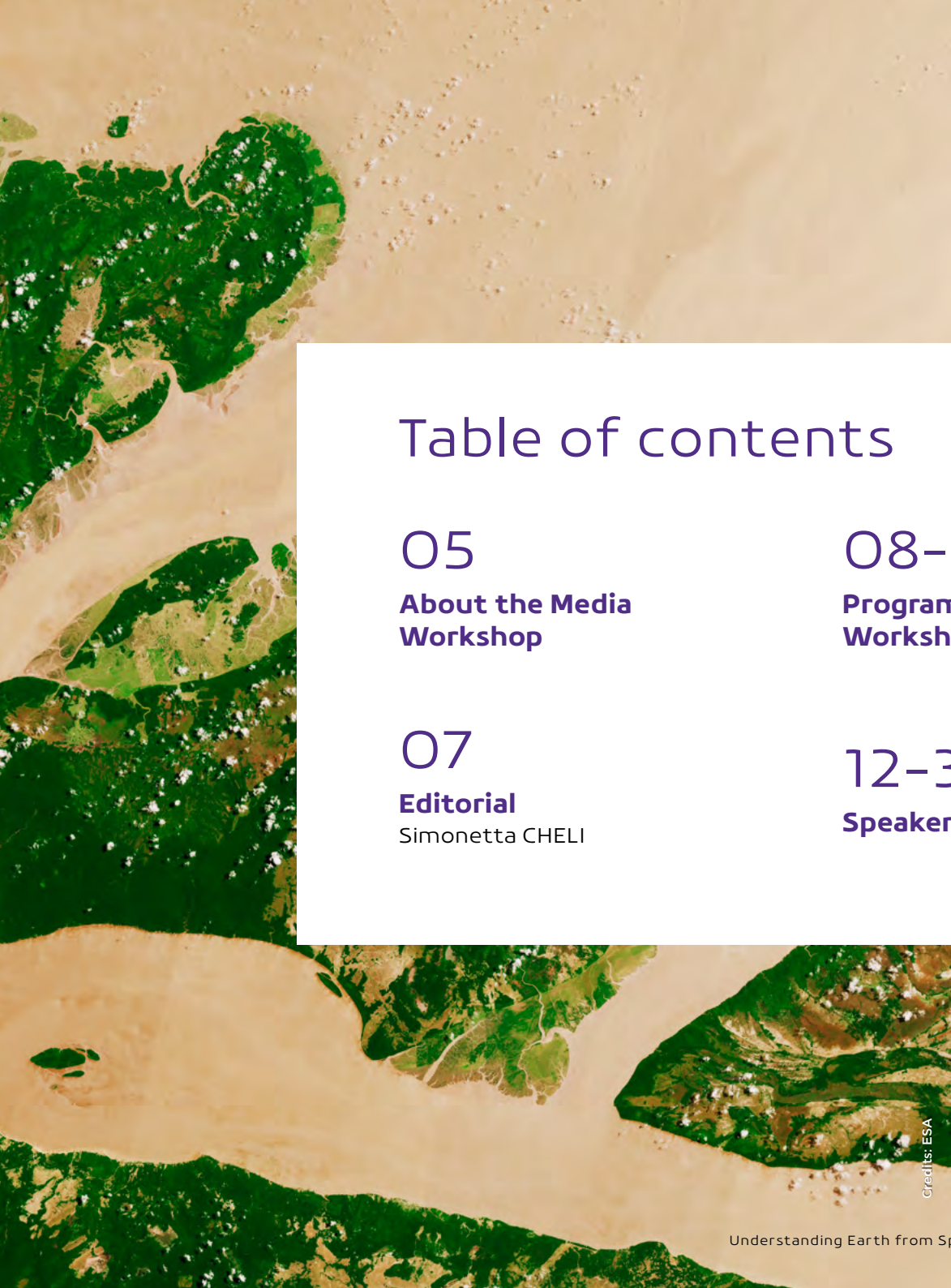


Table of contents

05

**About the Media
Workshop**

08-09

**Program of the Media
Workshop**

35

**Sponsors, Patrons and
Supporters**

07

Editorial
Simonetta CHELI

12-34

Speaker's biographies

38-39

**Organization & About
the Forum**

Credits: ESA

Understanding Earth from Space: Data, AI and Communication for Climate Adaptation

MEDIA WORKSHOP 2026

About the Media Workshop

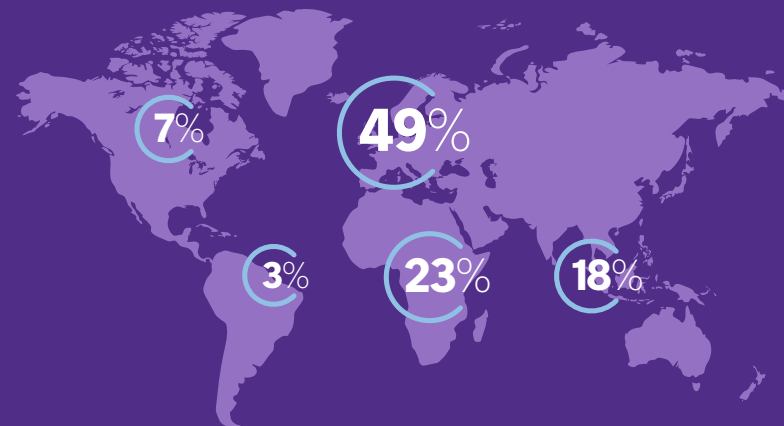
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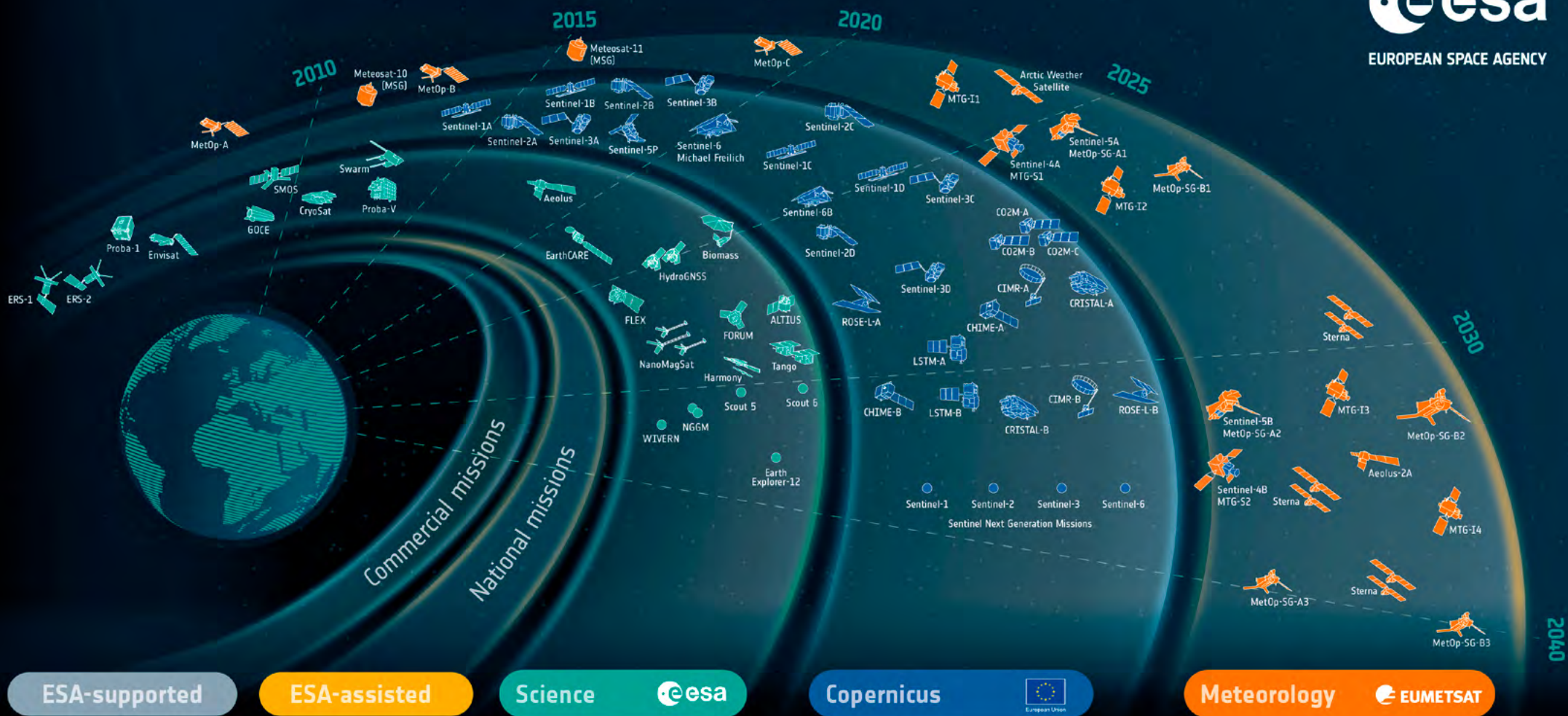
Every year, the Media Workshop brings together weather presenters, journalists and representatives of international organisations from around the world at the International Forum on Weather and Climate to collectively rethink communication strategies on climate change - aimed at both the general public and decision-makers.

For its 23rd edition, this event - which for over thirty years has been building bridges between science, technology and society - has the honour of being hosted at the European Space Agency's (ESA) Earth Observation Directorate in Frascati, Italy.

EXPECTED ATTENDANCE IN 2026

+500 participants and speakers from more than 40 countries





MEDIA WORKSHOP 2026



Editorial by Simonetta CHELI

I am thrilled to see the Media Workshop of the Climate and Weather Forum come to the European Space Agency (ESA) and, particularly, to ESRIN - ESA's centre for Earth observation in Frascati, Italy. We are proud to highlight to the visitors and online participants the role that data from Earth Observation satellites – both scientific as well as operational, featured in the schematic on the opposite page – play in improving the understanding of Earth's complex processes and systems. ESA, along with our institutional partners and Member States, is a driver of the development of cutting-edge satellite missions as well as the development of information products used by scientists, policymakers, and operational users.

SIMONETTA
CHELI



*Director of ESA Earth
Observation Programmes
and Head of ESRIN*

[in](#) Simonetta Cheli

Our speakers

(in alphabetic order)



BALLY
Philippe



BIRON
Daniele



BOOTH
Michael



CARCEDO
Diego



CHELI
Simonetta



COMEL
Saranne



CORALLO
Francesco



CORTÉS SOLARI
Francisca



ESCRIVA
Andreu



FARANDA
Davide



FULTON
Ryan



GHERGO
Giorgia



GROSS
Paul



LICCIARDI
Giorgio



Dr. MARIANI
Stefano



MAYER
Johanna



MESSETCHKOVA
Iana



MORALES ERRÁZURIZ
Patricia



OBAID CARRIÓN
Andrea



PERRIN
Brigitte



POURSHAMSI
Maryam



PULGAR-VIDAL
Manuel



REA
Anthony



RODRIGUEZ
Ariel



RUTI
Paolo



SAULO
Celeste



SCHNEIDER
Rochelle



VANNIER
Christian



VELÁSQUEZ
Mauricio



WEARING
Martin



WINKLEY
Shel



WOODS PLACKY
Bernadette

The Media Workshop will open on Thursday June 18th 2026 - in-person only - with a presentation of ESA's activities (Earth observation, the Vega launcher with AVIO, Space Rider), followed by a tour of the facilities: Experience, Science Hub and Lab.

PROGRAM FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH

In-person and virtual

09:00 Welcome address

by **Simonetta CHELI** - Director of Earth Observation Programmes and Head of ESRIN in remote

SESSION A Advanced meteorology and tools for numerical weather forecasting & warning systems - the role of satellite Earth observations
Hosted by **Paul GROSS** Meteorologist Emeritus, WDIV-TV, Detroit and President, Gross Weather

09:05 Keynote "Satellite EO data for monitoring and responding to extreme weather events"

by **Philippe BALLY** - ESA

09:25 Keynote "40th anniversary of innovation in Earth observation"

by **Paolo RUTI** - EUMETSAT

09:45 Round Table – Moderated by **Paul GROSS**, with **Col. Daniele BIRON** – Military Aviation and Meteorology, **Dr. Stefano MARIANI** – Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research and Copernicus Italia, **Giorgio LICCIARDI** – Italian Space Agency, and **Dr. Maryam POURSHAMSI** – ESA

SESSION B Artificial Intelligence and new data processing capabilities
Hosted by **Brigitte PERRIN** – Founder Earth Info Hub

11:05 Keynote by ESA “A New View of Clouds: Insights from EarthCARE and AI” by **Johanna MAYER** – ESA/ESRIN

11:25 Keynote “The Promise of Digital Twins” by **Diego CARCEDO** – DestinE Platform, Serco Italy and **Martin WEARING** – ESA

11:45 Round Table From Pixel to Prediction: how is AI advancing in Earth Observation science and weather forecasting – Moderated by **Brigitte PERRIN** – Earth Info Hub, with **Paolo RUTI** – EUMETSAT, **Ryan FULTON** – Ross video, **Rochelle SCHNEIDER** – ESA, and **Francesco CORALLO** – Thalès Alenia Space Italy

SESSION C Shaping Climate Narratives in a crisis era
Hosted by **Bernadette WOODS PLACKY** – Chief Meteorologist

14:00 Opening session by **Celeste SAULO** – World Meteorological Organization and **Francisca Cortés Solari** – Philanthropy Cortés Solari

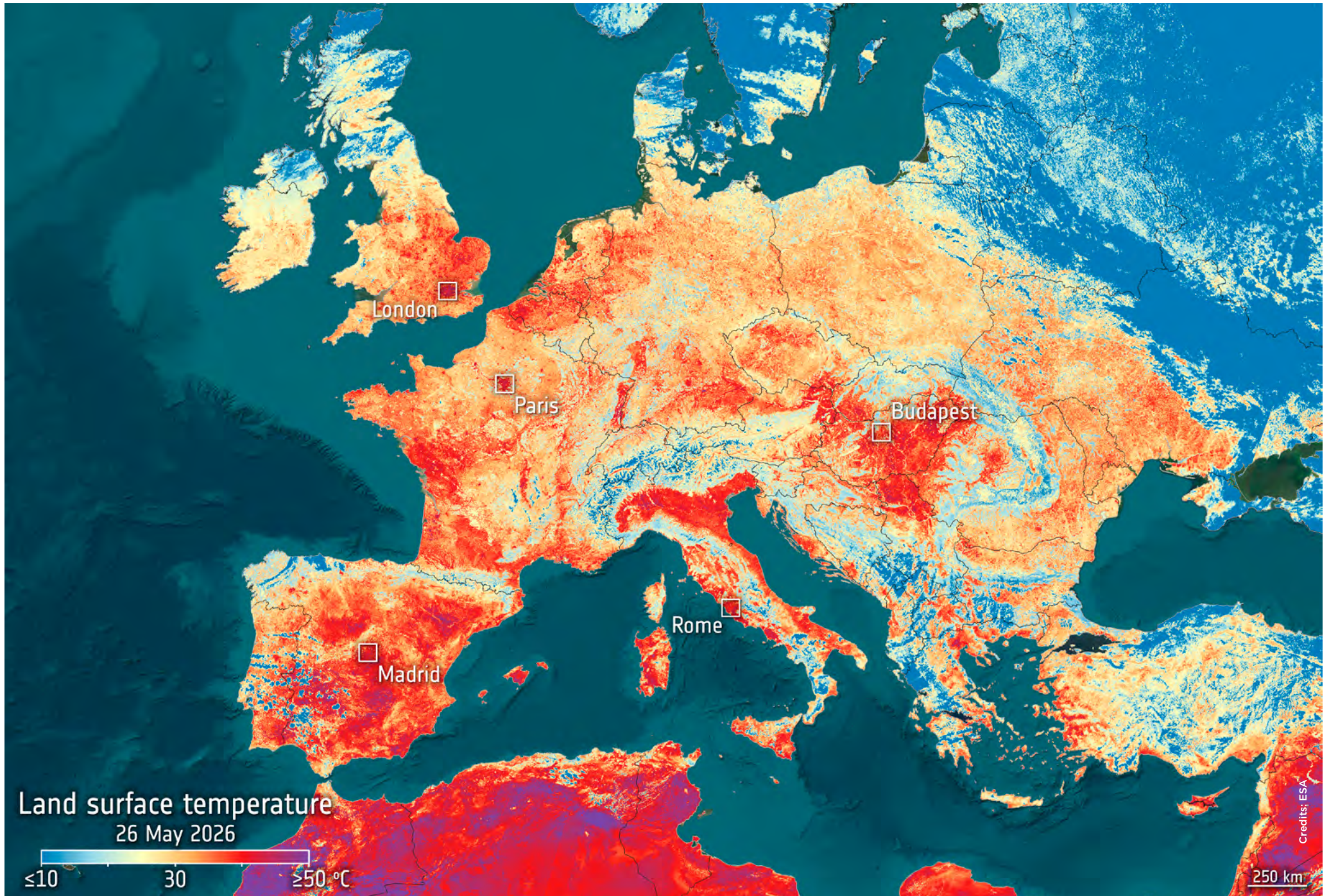
14:05 The Role of Meteorologists: Science, Trust and Communication by **Dr Anthony REA** – World Meteorological Organization

14:25 Round Table – “Trust Under Pressure: Science, Disinformation and the Climate Crisis” – Moderated by **Bernadette WOODS PLACKY** – Chief Meteorologist, with **Francisca CORTÉS SOLARI** – Philanthropy Cortés Solari, **Davide FARANDA** – CNRS and IPCC, **Manuel PULGAR-VIDAL** – WWF–International, **Saranne COMEL** – Université Côte d’Azur, and **Iana MESSECHKOVA** – UNFCCC

15:40 Round Table “Climate Communication and Global Power Dynamics” – Moderated by **Ariel RODRIGUEZ** – Telemundo 51, with **Andreu ESCRIVÀ** – El País (Spain), **Michael BOOTH** – ESA, **Giorgia GHERGO** – Copernicus Italia, **Shel WINKLEY** – Climate Central, **Andrea OBAID CARRIÓN** – Science Journalist, and **Mauricio VELÁSQUEZ** – CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

16:40 Presentation : Science for Climate Action: Building a Climate Journalism Task Force By **Patricia MORALES ERRÁZURIZ** – Philanthropy Cortés Solari, **Saranne COMEL** – Université Côte d’Azur

17:00 Closing by **Christian VANNIER** – IW2C, International Weather and Climate Forum



JUNE 19TH - 09:00 WELCOME ADDRESS

Simonetta Cheli is the Director of Earth Observation Programmes and Head of ESA-ESRIN in Frascati, Rome. With over 30 years at ESA, including roles at Headquarters in Paris and ESA-ESRIN, she leads the agency's Earth Observation strategy, overseeing satellite development, mission operations, ground segment data, and science applications.

As a member of ESA's Executive Board, Simonetta manages an annual budget of €2.4 billion (29,5% of ESA's overall funds) and directs 1000+ staff and contractors across five sites. She plays a key role in forging global partnerships, including major programmes like Copernicus, collaborating closely with space agencies, industry, scientific communities, and international partners.

In her role as ESA's representative in Italy, she leads ESA-ESRIN and represents the agency at international forums and media events worldwide.

Born in Siena, Italy, Simonetta studied Law and Economics at Yale University, earned a Political Science degree with a focus on International Satellite Telecommunication Law in Florence, and holds an advanced diploma from the Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques in Paris. Fluent in five languages, she is an acclaimed expert, recipient of prestigious awards, active in numerous international committees, and teaches master's courses on space at several universities.

SIMONETTA CHELI



*Director of ESA Earth
Observation Programmes
and Head of ESRIN*

 Simonetta Cheli

09:00
SESSION A

Advanced meteorology and tools for numerical weather forecasting and warning systems – The role of satellite Earth observations

Hosted by **Paul GROSS**

Paul GROSS is one of only six meteorologists in the world ever named a fellow of the American Meteorological Society as well as an AMS certified consulting meteorologist and certified broadcast meteorologist.

After earning many awards in his forty year career at WDIV-TV4 in Detroit, Paul was honored by being named the first meteorologist emeritus in the channel's

history. He is also now president of his own company, Gross Weather, and supports the legal field by researching past weather and testifying as a court-qualified expert in meteorology to help resolve legal matters involving weather.

Paul is one of America's leaders in communicating the science of climate change without politics, and his lectures on the subject are very popular.

PAUL
GROSS



*Meteorologist Emeritus,
WDIV-TV, Detroit and
President - Gross Weather*

 Paul Gross

09:05
KEYNOTE

“Satellite EO data for monitoring and responding to extreme weather events”

by **Philippe BALLY**

This keynote will introduce the participants to how data from Earth Observing satellites is used to monitor and respond to extreme weather events. It will provide an overview of the programmes and international initiatives which address disaster risk management as well as a perspective of how these tools may evolve to provide enhanced support in the future.

Philippe BALLY is a satellite Earth Observation specialist who graduated from the aerospace engineering Grande Ecole ENSICA. Before joining ESA he worked with the French Space Agency (CNES) in Moscow and Paris and with Spot Image working on remote sensing projects in Latin America and Asia in the fields of cartography, disaster

risk management, and security. His focus since joining the Agency in 2000 has been on disaster risk management and international development. He collaborates with the United Nations and Multilateral Development Banks and is the Agency representative at the Board of the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters', an international collaboration for EO-based disaster response.

PHILIPPE
BALLY



*EO Science & Application
Engineer - ESA*

 Philippe Bally

09:25
KEYNOTE

“40th anniversary of innovation in Earth observation”

by **Paolo RUTI**

Celebrating 40 years in 2026, EUMETSAT has played a central role in advancing operational Earth observation from space. This keynote will trace the evolution of meteorological satellite technologies over the last four decades towards an operational earth system perspective – and reveal how artificial intelligence is now transforming that legacy. As AI further exploits the potential of Operational Earth System observations, the benefits will continue to grow.

Paolo RUTI – As Chief Scientist at EUMETSAT, Dr Ruti provides strategic advice to the Director-General, responsible for designing and implementing user requirements analysis for future satellite missions, coordinating AI EUMETSAT activities and also representing EUMETSAT in high-level context.

Dr Ruti is the former Head of the World Weather Research Division at the WMO. He was responsible for the design and implementation of inter-disciplinary research and innovation programs across geophysical

and social sciences to foster Earth system prediction.

He holds a Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of Torino and Genova, Physics Department, a Degree in physics from the University of Bologna. Recognized international expertise on Earth System Science, Climate change, Climate Services, Regional Climate processes. Author and co-authors of more than 70 peer reviewed papers.



**PAOLO
RUTI**



*Chief Scientist -
EUMETSAT*

 Paolo Ruti

09:45
ROUND TABLE

“The role of Satellite Earth observations”

Moderated by **Paul GROSS**,
with **Col. Daniele BIRON**,
Dr. Stefano MARIANI, **Giorgio LICCIARDI**,
and **Maryam POURSHAMSI**

Precision, real-time monitoring, and life-saving technology.

From the silent vantage point of orbit, we are now able to track the Earth's pulse with unprecedented clarity. This session dives into the engine room of modern climate resilience: the integration of next-generation numerical forecasting and high-frequency satellite imagery. Join us as we explore how these operational tools are revolutionizing early warning systems and providing the critical lead time needed to protect lives and infrastructure in an increasingly volatile atmosphere.



COL.
DANIELE
BIRON



*Italian Air Force Staff,
General Office for Military
Aviation and Meteorology*

Col. Daniele BIRON - Currently Meteorology Office Deputy Head, he has the responsibility to coordinate the policy of the Italian Air Force Meteorological Service for the Italian delegation in all participations with international agencies related to meteorology and space-based Earth observations: UN World Meteorological Organization, EUMETSAT, ECMWF and EUMETNET. He is also advisor to the Italian delegation with the ESA Program Board - Earth Observation. MSc in Physics and PhD in Computer Science Engineering, he is a meteorologist and during his 26 years career he has been particularly involved in elaborating requirements and design of space systems for Earth observation and lightning detection by space borne assets and ground based networks. He was the initiator of a Space Weather monitoring and forecasting system, within the Italian Air Force Meteorological Service, for the purposes of the Italian Defence.

DR. STEFANO MARIANI



*Head of the
"Meteorological-
Hydrological Analysis and
Forecasting and Water
Resources" Section,
ISPRA-Italian Institute for
Environmental Protection
and Research, and
Coordinator of the Italian
C3S NCP initiative*

 Stefano Mariani

Dr. Stefano MARIANI - He has twenty-five years of experience in the field of hydrometeorology, weather forecasting, water resources, drought, and climate change impact on hydrological cycle. Within the Copernicus National User Forum, he is involved in user uptake, outreach and training actions for the EU Copernicus Programme. He coordinates the Italian initiative for the Collaboration National Programme of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), aiming at exploring the use of C3S products in operational workflows to provide high-resolution hydro-climatic information, up to the local scale. He is also national focal point and co-chair of the EU WG "Water scarcity and droughts", within the Common Implementation Strategy for the EU Water Framework Directive, alternate member of the Italian Ministry of Environment on the Steering Committee for meteorology and climatology, member of the Integrated Project Team for the EO IRIDE system, coordinator of the hydrometeorology and climate network of the National System for Environmental Protection.

GIORGIO LICCIARDI



*Earth Observation
Specialist, User
Coordination, Data Policy
and Downstreaming
Sector, Earth Observation
Unit - Italian Space Agency*

 Giorgio Licciardi

Giorgio LICCIARDI - He works at the Italian Space Agency (Earth Observation Office – User Coordination, Data Policy and Downstreaming Unit), where he contributes to the development and uptake of EO-based services. He is currently serving as Service Lead for S5 Hydro-Meteo-Climate within the IRIDE programme. He coordinates advanced solutions for environmental monitoring, climate analysis, and risk management, leveraging multi-source satellite data. He is an active member of the Greenhouse Gas Task Team (GHG-TT) of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), supporting international efforts to enhance the use of Earth observation data for greenhouse gas monitoring and emissions estimation. His work bridges research, institutions, and industry, promoting operational, user-driven solutions for climate policy, resilience, and sustainability.

DR. MARYAM POURSHAMSI



*Earth Observation
Scientist in the Earth &
Mission Sciences Division -
ESA*

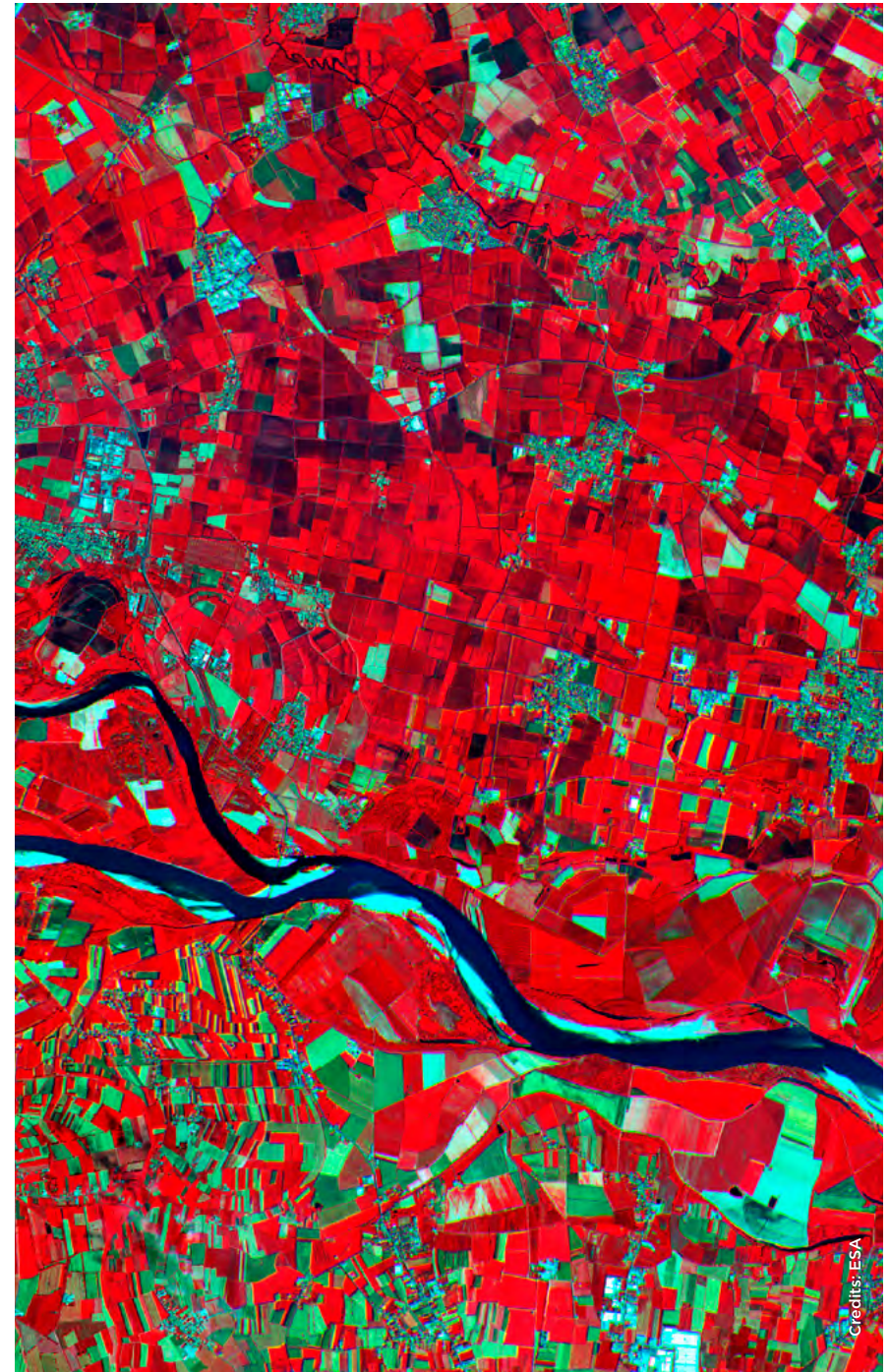
 Maryam Pourshamsi

Maryam POURSHAMSI

I am an Earth Observation Scientist at the European Space Agency (ESA), where I lead the science activities for ESA's newly selected Earth Explorer 11 mission, WIVERN. WIVERN is an innovative mission that will, for the first time, provide measurements of winds within clouds. Wind is one of the most critical parameters for weather forecasting, and WIVERN's unique observations are expected to significantly reduce forecast errors while advancing our understanding of storms and severe weather.

In addition to my scientific role, I manage the Secretariat for ESA's Advisory Committee for Earth Observation and coordinate the ESA Earth Observation Excellence Award.

Before joining ESA, I worked as an Earth Observation Analyst at Airbus Defence and Space in the UK. Prior to that, I completed a PhD in Earth Observation at the University of Leicester, UK.



Credits: ESA

11:00
SESSION B

Artificial Intelligence and new data processing capabilities

Hosted by **Brigitte PERRIN**

Brigitte Perrin is a Swiss senior communication expert and journalist who worked across the United Nations, academia (UNIGE) and traditional and digital media (RTS). She served as Chief of Strategic Communications at the World Meteorological Organization until recently, and led communication and digital transformation initiatives in Europe, Africa and at UN Headquarters in NY. She just launched the Earth Info Hub, a public good initiative designed to bridge the gap between institutional knowledge on Earth science and the needs of

communicators, media and decision-makers. Her work focuses on restoring trust in climate and environmental information in the face of disinformation and technological disruption, by making authoritative scientific knowledge more accessible, coherent and actionable. She brings an AI-powered systems-thinking approach to connecting scientists, media, and human networks. Her goal: strengthening information integrity while respecting ethics and institutional responsibility and supporting better decision-making at all levels.

**BRIGITTE
PERRIN**



Founder Earth Info Hub

 Brigitte Perrin

11:05
KEYNOTE

“A New View of Clouds: Insights from EarthCARE and AI”

by Johanna **MAYER**

This presentation introduces the EarthCARE satellite mission and shows how its unique, synergistic observations of clouds and aerosols can be combined with modern AI methods to gain new insights into cloud behavior. Examples include AI-based 3D cloud reconstruction and the detection of recurring cloud patterns, helping to better understand how cloud structures evolve. Together, these advances highlight EarthCARE’s potential to reduce key uncertainties in weather and climate research.

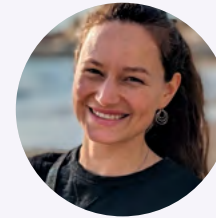
With a background in physics and environmental studies, Johanna **MAYER** completed a PhD in atmospheric physics at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), specializing in satellite remote sensing of clouds.

Her research focuses on understanding cloud properties and processes, which remain a major source of uncertainty in climate projections.

Currently, Johanna is continuing this work at the ESA Science Hub, where she uses observations from the newly launched EarthCARE satellite – a joint mission between ESA and JAXA – to study aerosol-cloud interactions and the horizontal organization of low-level clouds.

EarthCARE’s unique observing capabilities provide new opportunities to investigate these cloud processes in unprecedented detail.

**JOHANNA
MAYER**



*Research Fellow in the ESA/
ESRIN Science Hub*

 Johanna Mayer

11:25
KEYNOTE

“The Promise of Digital Twins”

by **Diego CARCEDO** and **Martin WEARING**

Digital Twins are emerging as a transformative capability to better understand, monitor and anticipate the evolution of Earth systems in the context of climate change and extreme events. This keynote will present how ESA Digital Twin Earth and the European Commission’s Destination Earth (DestinE) initiative combine Earth Observation, AI, advanced modelling and high-performance computing to transform environmental intelligence into actionable services supporting climate adaptation and informed decision-making across Europe.

Diego CARCEDO is a Partners & Ecosystem Manager for the DestinE Platform at Serco Europe, focusing on consortium coordination, partner management, and the uptake of DestinE services. He operates at the intersection of business development, technical capabilities and user needs, underpinning the development and adoption of space-based solutions. With a background in engineering and geospatial analysis, he contributes to the operationalisation of Earth Observation within large-scale European initiatives, enabling its translation into policy-relevant and user-driven applications.

Martin WEARING is Digital Twin Earth Scientist at ESA ESRIIN coordinating the development of digital replicas of Earth System components based on Earth Observation data, numerical modelling and AI. He is also Coordinator for the ESA Polar Science Cluster and has a research background in numerical modelling and analysis of satellite Earth Observation datasets for Polar regions.

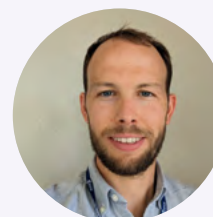
DIEGO
CARCEDO



*Partners & Ecosystem
Manager - DestinE
Platform, Serco Italy*

 Diego Carcedo

MARTIN
WEARING



*Digital Twin Earth
Scientist - ESA*

 Martin Wearing

11:45
ROUND TABLE

From Pixel to Prediction: how is AI advancing in Earth Observation science and weather forecasting

Moderated by **Brigitte PERRIN**,
with **Paolo RUTI**, **Ryan FULTON**, **Rochelle SCHNEIDER**, and **Francesco CORALLO**

Big data, machine learning, and the speed of insight.

We are drowning in data but starving for time. As satellite constellations generate petabytes of information, Artificial Intelligence has become the essential filter for climate adaptation. This session examines the cutting-edge of machine learning and automated processing. We will discuss how AI identifies patterns invisible to the human eye, accelerates predictive modeling, and transforms raw space-borne data into the “climate intelligence” required for rapid, evidence-based decision-making.



Ryan FULTON is a product management leader specializing in meteorological applications across industries such as broadcast, maritime, energy, public safety, and aviation. At Ross Video, he combines expertise in atmospheric science and data visualization to create advanced tools for weather graphics, real-time data integration,

and live production workflows. Passionate about connecting science with storytelling, he enables broadcasters to deliver accurate and engaging weather coverage through intuitive, innovative solutions. Ryan holds a B.S. in Meteorology from Florida State University and an MBA from the University of Houston.

PAOLO
RUTI



Chief Scientist -
EUMETSAT

Paolo Ruti

RYAN
FULTON



Product Manager,
Meteorologist, Weather
Graphics - Ross Video

Ryan Fulton

ROCHELLE SCHNEIDER



*Copernicus and Destination
Earth Ecosystem
Operations Engineer - ESA*

 Rochelle Schneider

Rochelle SCHNEIDER

is currently Copernicus and Destination Earth Ecosystem Operations Engineer at the European Space Agency, where she contributes to the development of Europe's digital climate ecosystem. Previously, she served as AI Applications Lead for Destination Earth at ESA's phi-lab, working on the application of AI to Earth observation and climate services. Dr Schneider's expertise focuses on the use of Earth observation data, machine learning, and digital platforms for climate risk assessment and environmental health applications. She collaborates on interdisciplinary projects in climate and health and supervises researchers across Europe and beyond. She holds honorary academic positions at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Imperial College London, and has also been affiliated as a visiting scientist with ECMWF.

FRANCESCO CORALLO



*AI Officer - Thales Alenia
Space Italy*

 Francesco Corallo

Francesco CORALLO holds a BSc in Aerospace Engineering and an MSc in Space and Astronautical Engineering, with specialization in Machine Learning applications. He has extensive professional experience as a System Engineer and Data Scientist and has conceived and led the development of several Artificial Intelligence-based solutions to address Space engineering challenges. He's currently part of the Chief Technical Officer team at the Italian division of Thales Alenia Space, where he is responsible for AI applications and leads the company's AI strategy and roadmap. His activities span onboard spacecraft AI applications as well as the adoption of AI across engineering and business processes.

14:00
SESSION C

Shaping climate narratives in a crisis era

Hosted by **Bernadette WOODS PLACKY**

To reposition climate communication as a strategic pillar of multilateralism and democratic resilience. This session explores how meteorologists can counter disinformation and reshape international influence through science-based narratives. Join us to discuss why communication is no longer just information sharing but a vital tool for modern multilateralism.

Bernadette WOODS PLACKY is a meteorologist, climate science communicator, and network builder with more than 25 years of experience translating complex science into stories that move people and institutions to act. She is a leading expert on the connections between weather and climate change. Most recently, Bernadette served as Vice President of Engagement and Chief Meteorologist at Climate Central where she built and led Climate Matters, an innovative climate journalism and communication program. Bernadette also cultivated partnerships with

media organizations, nonprofits, academic institutions, and government agencies and represented Climate Central at major global platforms including UN Climate Conferences, Aspen Ideas: Climate, and Climate Week NYC. Before Climate Central, Bernadette spent more than a decade as a TV meteorologist, earning an Emmy for Best Weathercaster. She is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and was elected to its Council. She serves on the National Academies Board on Atmospheric Science and Climate and as an advisor for C-Change Conversations.

**BERNADETTE
WOODS-PLACKY**



Chief Meteorologist

 Bernadette Woods-Placky



MERI
FOUNDATION



PHILANTHROPY
CORTES
SOLARI



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14:00 OPENING SESSION

by **Celeste SAULO**, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and **Francisca CORTÉS SOLARI**, Founder Philanthropy Cortés Solari

Professor Dr. Celeste Saulo, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a globally renowned meteorologist and the first woman and Latin American to serve as Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). She has a distinguished academic and professional career, having earned a degree in Meteorology from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) in 1987 and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences in 1996.

With a passion for the co-production of knowledge and a commitment to addressing societal needs, Dr. Saulo has held several leadership positions in academia and public service. She was appointed Director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service (SMN) in 2014, where she led significant organizational reforms. Her tenure focused on fostering national, regional, and international collaboration, with an emphasis on inclusivity and equity.

Dr. Saulo has made substantial contributions to meteorological science, authoring over 60 peer-reviewed papers and serving as principal investigator for numerous research projects. She has been an active participant in international scientific panels, including the World Weather Research Program (WWRP) and the World Climate Research Program (WCRP). In 2018, Dr. Saulo was elected Second Vice-President of the WMO, followed by her election as First Vice-President in 2019. In 2023, she was elected as WMO's Secretary-General for the 2024–2027 term.

Her achievements have been recognized through numerous awards, including the Konex Award and honorary membership in the American Meteorological Society.

**CELESTE
SAULO**



*Secretary-General –
World Meteorological
Organization*

 Celeste Saulo

**FRANCISCA
CORTÉS SOLARI**



*Founder Philanthropy
Cortés Solari*

 Francisca Cortés Solari

Biography, page 27

14:05
KEYNOTE

The Role of Meteorologists: Science, Trust and Communication

by **Dr Anthony REA**

Meteorologists play a vital role in building trust through clear communication, sustained relationships, and reliable science—key to ensuring early warnings and climate messages are understood and acted upon.

As automation and open data reshape the field, their expertise, engagement with users, and use of trusted data and emerging technologies are becoming essential for informed decisions across media, communities, and industries.

Dr Anthony REA is the Senior Director, Earth System Data and Prediction with WMO. In this position he has responsibility for coordinating standards and requirements for global observations, data exchange and global modelling to support the service delivery of WMO Members. These responsibilities cover weather, climate, water, the oceans and the cryosphere.

Dr Rea has three decades of experience across remote sensing, in-situ observation,

data policy and data exchange. He has previously worked for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, WMO (as the former director of Infrastructure) and as a private consultant. He has a PhD in meteorological remote sensing from RMIT University and a Masters in Public Administration from the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

DR
ANTHONY
REA



*Senior Director,
Earth System Data
and Prediction –
World Meteorological
Organization (Online)*

 Anthony Rea

14:25 ROUND TABLE

“Trust Under Pressure: Science, Disinformation and the Climate Crisis”

Moderated by **Bernadette WOODS PLACKY**,
with **Francisca CORTÉS SOLARI**, **Davide FARANDA**,
Manuel PULGAR-VIDAL, **Saranne COMEL**,
and **Iana MESSECHKOVA**

As climate disasters intensify worldwide, meteorologists have become key public interpreters of climate science. This high-level discussion will explore how scientists, journalists and communicators can rebuild public trust, counter climate disinformation and strengthen climate literacy in an era of political polarization and digital fragmentation. The session will highlight the strategic role of responsible climate communication in supporting democratic resilience and evidence-based action.

The panel will bring together meteorologists, climate scientists, international organizations, journalists, media leaders, policymakers and representatives from the philanthropic and academic sectors, fostering dialogue between science, communication and public decision-making.



FRANCISCA CORTÉS SOLARI



Founder Philanthropy
Cortés Solari

 Francisca Cortés Solari

Francisca CORTÉS SOLARI

is a Chilean philanthropist who has been working for over 25 years to promote integral and sustainable development in Chile and the rest of the world.

In 2000, she founded Philanthropia Cortés Solari (FCS), a philanthropic group that promotes sustainable development through integral education, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity, both nationally and internationally.

In January 2024, she was named IUCN Patron of Nature, becoming the only representative from South America to receive this honour.

Through the MERI Foundation, an IPCC observer institution and the scientific arm of FCS, Francisca promotes scientific research, environmental education and advocacy on climate, conservation and biodiversity issues. The MERI Foundation has been particularly active in protecting species threatened by human activity, such as cetaceans, condors and Andean flamingos. It also co-organises the annual ‘Science for Climate Action’ pavilion at the Conference of the Parties (COP), in collaboration with the IPCC and the World Meteorological Organisation.

These dialogue spaces, which bring together representatives from the public and private sectors as well as civil society, aim to facilitate discussion and the building of agreements in response to climate challenges and biodiversity loss. Cortés Solari Philanthropy manages three natural parks, true conservation laboratories, called “Elementary Reserves,” located in the Atacama Desert, the central region of Chile, and Northern Patagonia. In these reserves, FCS implements a multidimensional conservation model that integrates environmental, social, economic, and cultural dimensions.

DAVIDE FARANDA



*Research Director in
Climate Science at CNRS
and IPCC Lead Author, AR7
Chapter 3*

[in](#) Davide Faranda

Davide FARANDA is a Research Director at CNRS (France) working on climate dynamics and extreme weather events. He is leading author of the IPCC seventh cycle. His research focuses on understanding and attributing extreme events to climate change using tools from statistical physics, dynamical systems, and machine learning. He coordinates the [www.ClimaMeter.org](#) initiative, an international effort to provide rapid, science-based attribution of extreme events. His work also explores the links between climate variability, atmospheric circulation, and impacts on society, including risks to infrastructure and energy systems. He has led several European projects and actively contributes to science communication and public engagement on climate-related risks.

MANUEL PULGAR-VIDAL



*Global Leader,
Climate & Energy -
WWF International (Online)*

[in](#) Manuel Pulgar-Vidal

Manuel PULGAR-VIDAL

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal is the global leader of Climate & Energy at WWF and interim chair of the IUCN Climate Crisis Commission. With over 35 years of experience in environmental law and policy, he served as Minister of the Environment of Peru (2011–2016) and presided over COP20 in 2014. A former Executive Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, he is also a professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

He sits on numerous boards and steering committees — including Forest Trends, the Amazon Conservation Association, and the Science Based Targets initiative — and chairs the evaluation council of the French sovereign Green Bonds. He is an Ambassador for the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns.

He has been awarded the Légion d'Honneur, the German and Spanish Orders of Merit, and has been inducted into the Earth Hall of Fame of Kyoto.

SARANNE COMEL



Special Advisor to the President of Université Côte d'Azur and Director of international and European Operations

Saranne Comel

Saranne COMEL

has over 15 years of experience in academic and scientific cooperation across Europe, Asia, and Africa. Her expertise in science diplomacy focuses on translating scientific knowledge into policy and bridging the gap between research, decision-making, and society.

She is also committed to promoting the unique role of universities at the intersection of research, education, and innovation, notably through the G7 engagement group, U7+, whose secretariat is hosted at Université Côte d'Azur.

More recently, she has been actively working to foster dialogue on trust in science and in scientists at the highest political and institutional levels.

IANA MESSECHKOVA



Programme Officer - UNFCCC (Online)

Iana M.

Iana MESSECHKOVA works on strategic communications at UN Climate Change, shaping how climate issues are understood by global audiences.

She previously served as Head of Communications and Head of Digital at the UK's COP26 Presidency, with earlier roles spanning digital communications and media relations at the UK Department for Environment and the UK Parliament.

She holds an MA in Human Rights Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and a BA in International Relations from the University of British Columbia.

15:40 ROUND TABLE

“Climate Communication and Global Power Dynamics”

Moderated by **Ariel RODRIGUEZ**, with **Andreu ESCRIVÀ**,
Michael BOOTH, **Giorgia GHERGO**, **Shel WINKLEY**, **Andrea OBAID CARRIÓN**,
and **Mauricio VELÀSQUEZ**

Climate communication increasingly shapes geopolitical influence, public perception and international climate governance. This session will examine how narratives around climate change are produced, amplified and contested across global media ecosystems, with particular attention to North-South asymmetries, disinformation, artificial intelligence and the underrepresentation of Indigenous and frontline communities. The panel aims to promote more inclusive, democratic and territorially grounded climate narratives capable of strengthening multilateral cooperation and societal resilience.

The discussion will convene senior representatives from European institutions, international organizations, Earth observation agencies, major media outlets, climate scientists, journalists and communication experts, creating a unique space to reflect on the future of climate narratives in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.



Ariel Rodríguez is the 6pm and 11pm, meteorologist at Noticiero Telemundo 51, based in Miami, Florida. For 4 years, he worked on a weekly series aimed at developing an ecofriendly consciousness within the community. In 2017 he spearheaded the climate change talk among the Spanish speaking television stations in South Florida with “Alerta Verde: Cambio Climático”, where Rodríguez showcased

to his viewers the different ways in which climate change affected them, and how it potentially would impact them in the future. In 2023 he became part of the first Climate Beacon Newsrooms Initiative, a partnership between Solutions Journalism Network, Covering Climate Now, Climate Central and Project Drawdown, aiming to transform the coverage of the climate crisis within his newsroom by creating a series of solution

journalism stories. Ariel holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Meteorology from Florida State University, a Master’s of Science in Applied Meteorology from Mississippi State University, and is a “Certified Broadcast Meteorologist” by the American Meteorological Society. He has received ten Emmy awards for severe weather coverage, environmental reporting, and hurricane preparation specials.



ANDREU ESCRIVÀ



*Environmental scientist
and communicator and
contributor El País (Online)*

 Andreu Escrivà

Andreu ESCRIVÀ (Valencia, 1983) holds a degree in Environmental Sciences, a Master's in Biodiversity — with a specialization in Ecosystem Management and Conservation — and a PhD in Biodiversity from the University of Valencia. He combines his work as an environmental specialist with an active role in science communication.

He regularly contributes to media outlets such as El País, El Periódico, Mètode, and Climática, and participates in conferences and seminars on environmental issues, climate change, and communication.

He is the author of *It's Not Too Late Yet: Keys to Understanding and Tackling Climate Change* (winner of the 22nd European Prize for Science Communication "Estudi General" in 2016), *What Should I Do Now?* (2020), *Against Sustainability* (2023), *Climate Emergency* (2024), and *The Earth Is Not Your Planet* (2026).

MICHAEL BOOTH



*EO Outreach & Data
Visualisation Content
Coordinator – ESA*

 Miguel Booth

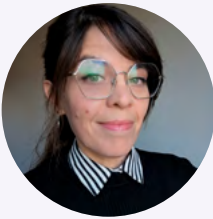
MICHAEL BOOTH currently works for the European Space Agency (ESA) as Earth Observation Outreach and Data Visualisation Content Coordinator. He also recently served as the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Head of Multimedia (2016–2019).

A seasoned science communicator, Michael has produced films and environmental stories in over 60 countries over the past few years. His work on climate change and the cryosphere led to five expeditions in Antarctica, three in the Arctic and several others in the high-altitude mountain regions around the world.

Michael's award-winning work has been showcased in international film festivals and outlets such as National Geographic, CNN, BBC, and others. He recently produced two ground-breaking immersive VR360 documentaries on snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan and mountain gorillas in Uganda. Michael oversees ESA's Phi Experience, an Earth Observation multimedia exhibit in Frascati, Italy and its expansion sites across Europe.

Michael holds a Postgraduate degree in Natural History Filmmaking and Communication from the University of Otago in New Zealand.

GIORGIA GHERGO



*Science Communication
Researcher and
Communication Designer,
IUSS PAVIA – Copernicus
Italia*

 Giorgia Ghergo

Giorgia GHERGO – She holds a PhD in Sustainable Development and Climate Change and a Master's degree in Communication Design. She works at the intersection of space data, design, and climate communication, with over ten years of experience in science communication across more than thirty projects for national and international institutions.

Her research focuses on how communication and information design shape the interpretation and use of Earth observation data, with particular attention to the Copernicus Programme. She specialises in transforming complex scientific information into accessible, accurate, and engaging narratives, with expertise in data visualisation.

Adopting a systems thinking approach, she investigates barriers to the uptake of space-based services and develops strategies to enhance accessibility, usability, and societal relevance of scientific data. She is particularly interested in how climate narratives can build trust, counter misinformation, and support informed public and policy engagement.

SHEL WINKLEY



*Senior Engagement
Specialist and
Meteorologist – Climate
Central*

 Shel Winkley

Shel WINKLEY – Senior Engagement Specialist and Meteorologist at Climate Central
Shel Winkley is a Sr. Engagement Specialist and Meteorologist at Climate Central. He collaborates with meteorologists, journalists, scientists, content creators, storytellers, and other trusted voices to identify climate change's fingerprint on current and past weather events. Winkley spent nearly two decades in broadcast meteorology, earning multiple awards from the Texas Association of Broadcasters, EMMA Awards, and an Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Innovation.

ANDREA OBAID CARRIÓN



Science Journalist (Online)

 Andrea Obaid Carrión

Andrea OBAID CARRIÓN

is an award-winning Chilean science journalist, radio host, podcast presenter, and author. Recognized by Forbes as one of Chile's 50 most powerful women, she holds a Master's degree in Science Communication from Pompeu Fabra University and serves as Executive Director of Neurona Group. She is the former president of ACHIPEC (Chilean Association of Science Journalists) and currently hosts Tu Nuevo ADN on Radio ADN. Obaid created and hosted the popular television programs Tecnociencia and Cocina Lab, and is also the host of Tecnociencia, el podcast. She is the author of several books on scientific tourism, promoting science and nature through accessible storytelling. In 2023, she received the prestigious Eric and Wendy Schmidt Award for Excellence in Science Communication from the U.S. National Academies. Through her work, she has become one of Latin America's leading voices in science communication.

MAURICIO VELÁSQUEZ



Senior Executive |
Biodiversity and Climate
Technical Advisory
Directorate, Corporate
Vice-Presidency for
Strategic Planning- CAF
Development Bank of Latin
America and the Caribbean
(Online)

 Mauricio Velásquez

Mauricio VELÁSQUEZ

He is a principal executive with 16+ years of experience advancing climate action, biodiversity protection, and sustainable finance in Latin America and the Caribbean. At CAF, he leads the Biodiversity agenda and coordinates the Strategic Ecosystems Initiative, designing solutions that connect nature, people, and financial systems.

Throughout his career, he has contributed to landmark conservation and sustainability initiatives, from co-founding the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) to supporting the Galapagos National Park Management Plan and strengthening environmental and social standards for financial institutions.

Mauricio is committed to building resilient, low-carbon, and biodiversity-rich economies that improve livelihoods and create long-term value for the region.

16:40 PRESENTATION

Science for Climate Action: Building a Climate Journalism Task Force

by **Patricia MORALES ERRÁZURIZ** – **Saranne COMEL**

Patricia MORALES ERRÁZURIZ is the CEO of Philanthropy Cortés Solari (PCS), a Chilean philanthropic group founded by businesswoman and philanthropist Francisca Cortés Solari, that promotes sustainable and holistic development through education, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation.

PCS encompasses two foundations – CASERTA (focused on education) and MERI (dedicated to addressing climate change and the triple planetary crisis) – as well as three Elemental Reserves located in Atacama (Latitude 22), Central Chile (Latitude 33), and Northern Chilean Patagonia (Latitude 44). In her role,

Patricia co-leads, together with the Board of Directors, the design and implementation of all programs and initiatives, ensuring their alignment with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An economist educated at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), with a Master's degree from the Paris School of Economics, Patricia has held several senior positions related to the formulation, evaluation, and implementation of public policies on economic, environmental, and social issues in Chile.

She headed Chile's World Bank–CONICYT Unit, managed the Innovation for

**PATRICIA
MORALES
ERRÁZURIZ**



CEO – Philanthropy Cortés Solari

[in](#) Patricia Morales Errázuriz

Competitiveness Program, and worked as a researcher at the FAO. From 2011 to 2017, she served as Executive Director of the Progres Foundation, founded and chaired the Progressive Party of Chile, and ran for office in the capital region. Patricia has also taught Econometrics and Monetary Policy at the university level and is a regular media commentator in Chile.

17:00 CLOSING OF EVENT

by **Christian VANNIER** – CEO IW2C
& Founder of the International Weather and Climate Forum

MEDIA WORKSHOP 2026

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European Space Agency

The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.

ESA is an international organisation with 23 Member States. By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, it can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country.



MERI
FOUNDATION

MERI FOUNDATION

Founded in 2012 by Francisca Cortés Solari, the MERI Foundation is the scientific branch of Philanthropy Cortés Solari, dedicated to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution through scientific research, environmental education, and civic engagement. The foundation conducts advanced research on marine and terrestrial ecosystems, notably through cetacean expeditions in Chilean Patagonia. Its Blue Boat Initiative, developed with the Polytechnic

University of Catalonia, deploys smart buoys to prevent ship-whale collisions. MERI also leads conservation and education programs across three Chilean reserves and actively contributes internationally as an IPCC observer and co-organizer of the Science for Climate Action Pavilion at COP conferences.



Climate Central

Climate Central is an independent, policy-neutral nonprofit organization dedicated to researching and reporting the facts about climate change. Through a combination of science, data, and compelling communication, Climate Central helps people understand how climate change is affecting their lives today—and what they can do about it. The organization focuses on key areas including climate science, sea level rise, extreme weather, and climate impacts on health and society—translating complex research into accessible information that empowers the public, media, and decision-makers.



EUMETSAT

EUMETSAT, Europe's meteorological satellite agency, monitors the weather and climate from space. Based in Darmstadt, Germany, EUMETSAT provides the meteorological services in its 30 member states with imagery and data essential for keeping communities safe and for the benefit of critical sectors of their economies. Four Meteosat satellites in geostationary orbit deliver observations of fast developing severe weather events. Two polar-orbiting Metop satellites provide data of pivotal importance for forecasts up to 10 days ahead. EUMETSAT operates the EU's Copernicus Sentinel missions monitoring the oceans and atmosphere and is a partner in the European-US ocean-monitoring Jason mission.



DestinE Platform / Serco

Destination Earth (DestinE) is a flagship European Union initiative aimed at strengthening Europe's ability to monitor and respond to climate and environmental challenges. Led by the European Space Agency, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, and EUMETSAT, it combines Earth observation, AI, advanced modelling, high-performance computing, and Digital Twin technologies to support evidence-based decision-making. Serco contributes to the development and operation of the ESA-led platform, supporting service integration and stakeholder engagement. Through a federated ecosystem of services, DestinE provides accessible environmental intelligence tools for public authorities, researchers, businesses, and citizens, supporting climate adaptation, environmental monitoring, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development.



Thales Alenia Space

Drawing on over 40 years of experience and a unique combination of skills, expertise and cultures, Thales Alenia Space delivers cost-effective solutions for telecommunications, navigation, Earth observation, environmental monitoring, exploration, science and orbital infrastructures. A joint venture between Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%), Thales Alenia Space also teams up with Telespazio to form the Space Alliance, which offers a complete range of solutions including services. The Company has more than 8,100 employees in 7 countries with 14 sites in Europe.



AVIO

Avio is a leading international group engaged in the manufacturing and development of space launchers and solid, liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems. The experience and know-how built up over more than 50 years puts Avio at the cutting-edge of the space launcher sector and defense program. Avio is present in Italy, France, United States and French Guiana, employing more than 1,500 highly qualified personnel. Avio is the prime contractor for the Vega program and a subcontractor for the Ariane program, as well as a leading solid rocket motor subcontractor for the design and manufacturing of major European tactical missile programs.

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MEDIA WORKSHOP 2026

Organization

Created in 2004 to meet a strong need for scientific mediation, the International Weather and Climate Forum (FIM) has become a key event for education and mobilization on climate issues. FIM facilitates exchanges between different players (the general public, scientists, companies, weather presenters, local authorities, etc.) so that everyone can take action! It is structured around a general public section (exhibition, workshops, debates, etc.) and a professional section with a symposium and an international media workshop. The Forum is co-constructed within the framework of a partnership governance piloted by IW2C. This governance sets up a participative operation which includes the members of the sponsoring committee and the members of the partners' club.



CHRISTIAN VANNIER



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and Climate Forum*

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NADÈGE PAYET



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About the International Weather and Climate Forum

For more than twenty years, the International Weather and Climate Forum, created at the initiative of Christian Vannier, has been a key space to bring together climate scientists and weather presenters from around the world. «Communication is essential if we are to raise public awareness on climate issues, and weather presenters are essential actors for this». Since its beginnings, the Forum has gathered weather presenters from all over the world to create synergies, facilitate exchanges and reflexions with scientists and experts of international organizations, to step up and disseminate media communication with the public and decision-makers.

The Forum plays a key role in raising awareness and developing media communication strategies. By fostering a constructive dialogue, it helps setting up initiatives such as the Warming Stripes, which aim to make information more accessible in the media to strengthen the realization of the need for a sustainable future for generations to come.

Over the years, it has become a key event for mobilizing people around the issues surrounding climate change, with the mission of raising awareness among the general public by encouraging dialogue with researchers and scientific mediators, with the aim of making science accessible in a context of growing environmental urgency.

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