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User perspectives in the development of an operational atmospheric composition service

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As an operational system to monitor and forecast the composition of the Earth's atmosphere develops, there exist both the challenge and the opportunity to ensure that the requirements of the wide range of stakeholders who will use this system to make decisions on global, regional and local environmental issues are instrumental in shaping its design. Efforts to begin to address the complex process of optimally combining user requirements with current scientific and technological capabilities in the area of atmospheric composition have been on-going within a number of fora in recent years, including the GMES Service Element PROMOTE and the GEMS Integrated Project of the EU Sixth Framework Programme, as well as within the User Interface Committee of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). A short survey of experience gained from these efforts is presented and some lessons learned are discussed.