# Greece Employs Satellites and AI to Enforce Beach-Use Laws



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The Greek Ministry of Digital Governance has announced a new initiative to combat the illegal use of sunbeds, umbrellas, and chairs on the country's beaches as summer nears. The program will use satellite data and artificial intelligence to monitor adherence to Greece's beach-use regulations, according to Ekathimerini.

Current laws allow businesses to lease up to 50% of public beaches and only 30% of areas protected under European Union regulations. However, many businesses exceed these limits, often occupying more space than permitted and attempting to bar non-paying visitors or compelling them to rent equipment.

The University of the Aegean will collaborate with the government starting in June to implement an AI system that can identify violations. Last summer saw significant public discontent, known as the "beach towel revolt," where locals protested high costs imposed by businesses on public beaches. The exact penalties for violators have not yet been disclosed.

Critics, including Efthymia Sarantakou from the University of West Attica, argue that a historical lack of oversight has allowed businesses to dominate public beaches, leading to incidents of intimidation and creating quasi-private beach areas. The new measures aim to restore public access and compliance with the laws.