



**FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES GEOLOGUES
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS
FEDERACION EUROPEA DE GEOLOGOS**

European Federation of Geologists

**TITLE OF EUROPEAN GEOLOGIST:
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009**

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Annual Report 2009

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LIST OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	The European Federation of Geologists	1
1.1.1	General	1
1.1.2	Objectives of the European Federation of Geologists	1
1.2	Purpose of Report	2
2	EUROPEAN GEOLOGIST	2
2.1	Criteria for Award of Title	2
2.2	Procedures for Award of Title	3
2.3	Code of Ethics	6
2.4	Disciplinary Procedures	6
2.5	Statistics	6
Annex A:	Code of Ethics	

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The European Federation of Geologists

1.1.1 General

The **European Federation of Geologists** (EFG) is registered according to the Council of Europe – ETS no.124 – European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations as a non-profit making organisation. The EFG consists of **Members** that are National Professional Organisations or Organisations whose principal aims are the advancement and promotion of the profession of geology and the professional interests of geologists. Members of the EFG may have '**individual members**'.

The **Council** of the EFG is its governing body.

The EFG has established and maintains the title of '**European Geologist**'. An **individual member** of a National Professional Organisation or Organisation that is a **Member** of the EFG who has relevant postgraduation experience in the profession and practice of geology may apply to **Council** for award of the title of European Geologist in accordance with criteria and procedures established by Regulations.

1.1.2 Objectives of the European Federation of Geologists

The EFG is instituted to represent the geological profession in Europe, especially to the European Union and its various organisations. This remit is discharged by:

- (i) safeguarding and promoting the present and future interests of the geological profession in Europe;
- (ii) maintaining the free movement of geologists in Europe through the mutual acceptance of academic and professional qualifications;
- (iii) encouraging the harmonisation of education and training, including strengthening links to tertiary training provided by universities and similar institutions;
- (iv) defining and protecting the title of geologist and related professional titles;
- (v) developing and maintaining a common code of professional ethics;
- (vi) improving the status of geology;
- (vii) providing advice and assistance to constituent National Associations;
- (viii) encouraging and administering the qualifying title of European Geologist;
- (ix) promoting a common European geological policy for the responsible use of the earth's natural resources; and
- (x) promoting and developing the professional competence of geologists in applied geology.

1.2 Purpose of Report

This report is the Annual Report for 2008 on the title of European Geologist and presents the following information:

- The criteria for award of the title;
- The procedures for award of the title;
- The Code of Ethics to which European Geologists are required to conform;
- The disciplinary procedures operated by the EFG to deal with complaints against European Geologists; and
- The statistics related to the title of European Geologists for 2008.

2 EUROPEAN GEOLOGIST

2.1 Criteria for Award of Title

The criteria for award of the title of European Geologist are set out in Regulations that are approved by Council.

To qualify for award of the title of European Geologist, a candidate must:

- (i) be a member of one of the National Associations within the EFG or hold an approved professional qualification awarded by an Associate Member of the EFG subject to the agreement of Council;
- (ii) provide evidence of a professional European connection in the case of being a non-European and not residing in Europe (see Statutes for the definition of Europe as applied by the EFG);
- (iii) hold a recognised degree or equivalent qualification in geology or related subject;
- (iv) have relevant postgraduation experience in the profession and practice of geology;
- (v) be supported by three European Geologists who have personal knowledge of the applicant;
- (vi) have completed and submitted an application form including a Professional Practice Report;
- (vii) have satisfied the EFG that they meet the requirements for award of the title of European Geologist through submission of supporting documentation and a professional interview; and
- (viii) have provided a written commitment to undertake a programme of Continuing Professional Development.

2.2 Procedures for Award of Title

The procedures for award of the title of European Geologist are set out in Regulations approved by Council.

The standard method for award of the Title of European Geologist requires that:

- (i) An application is submitted by a candidate to the **Member** National Association of which the candidate is an **individual member**;
- (ii) The **National Vetting Committee** of the **Member** National Association evaluates the application and submits a recommendation for award of the title to a **Licensed Body**;
- (iii) The **Licensed Body** approves award of the title; and
- (iv) A list of individuals awarded the title is submitted to **Council** for information.

Special procedures apply to the following situations:

- (i) Applications received from members of a **Member** National Association which does not have a **National Vetting Committee**; and
- (ii) Applications received from Associate Members.

National Vetting Committees are established by **Member** National Associations in accordance with Regulations to evaluate applications from the individual members of the **Member** National Association for the award of the title of European Geologist. A National Vetting Committee shall, according to Regulations:

- (i) Prepare, maintain and distribute documents to provide guidance to applicants, assessors and interview panels on the procedures that are to be followed for evaluations of applications for the award of the Title of European Geologist;
- (ii) Ensure, by training, audit or other appropriate means, that the above procedures are being followed;
- (iii) Validate claims made by applicants of qualifications through inspection of originals of certificates, inspection of notarised copies or through checking with the awarding body;
- (iv) Ensure that application forms submitted by candidates for award of the Title of European Geologist are complete in all respects;
- (v) Assess the professional experience and current competence of applicants through inspection of completed application forms, professional report and reports from sponsors;
- (vi) Conduct professional interviews of all applicants;
- (vii) Report the results of the evaluation of each application for award of the Title to the appropriate Licensed Body with a recommendation for award of the Title of European Geologist for those candidates who meet the criteria for award as set out in Regulations;
- (viii) Have established written procedures for dealing with non-standard applications and ensure equality of opportunity;

- (ix) Maintain records of applications and of reasons for recommendations regarding award of the Title; and
- (x) Provide information in a timely manner to enable the Registration Authority to audit the performance of the National Vetting Committee.

By the end of 2009, National Vetting Committees had been established in the following Member countries: Belgium-Luxembourg, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

A **Licensed Body** is established to administer and control the award of the Title of European Geologist and the subsequent maintenance of the Title for those European Geologists that are registered with the Licensed Body in accordance with Regulations.

The Licence to act as a Licensed Body is granted for a period of 5 years by Council on the recommendation of the **Registration Authority**. Council may renew the Licence for subsequent periods of five years or rescind the Licence, at any time, on the recommendation of the **Registration Authority**.

A **Licensed Body** may be either:

- (i) A National Licensed Body established to administer, control and maintain the Title of European Geologist for members of an individual National Association; or
- (ii) An International Licensed Body established to administer, control and maintain the title of European Geologist for members of one or more National Associations that have established National Vetting Committees, but which are not themselves National Licensed Bodies.

A **Licensed Body** shall:

- (i) Establish a National Vetting Committee to evaluate applications for award of the Title of European Geologist (applies only to National Licensed Bodies);
- (ii) Publish criteria for and accredit courses of study and the educational provisions in them for award of a degree or equivalent qualification in geology or related subjects;
- (iii) Maintain a code of conduct and produce guidance on professional standards;
- (iv) Maintain a register of European Geologists who have their titles administered by the Licensed Body, and for the European Geologists who are on this register;
 - Collect subscriptions and dues;
 - Provide, maintain and administer a scheme of Continued Professional Development (CPD);
 - Carry out an annual review to ensure that CPD records have been submitted and meet the required standard and that subscriptions and dues have been paid. For any European Geologist who is found to be in default in paying their subscription and/or in submitting their CPD records, to delete their name from the register and notify the individual in writing that they are no longer entitled to use the title of European Geologist;
 - Provide, maintain and operate a Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure; and

- Provide access to individual European Geologist to an appeals machinery against disciplinary actions.
- (v) Provide information in a timely manner to enable the Registration Authority to audit the performance of the Licensed Body;
- (vi) Submit reports to the EFG Council Meetings in a manner as may be specified by Council; and
- (vii) Promote the European Geologist Title to all members of the National Association(s) for which the Licensed Body is responsible.

By the end of 2009 National Licensed Bodies had been established in the following Member countries: Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom. An International Licensed Body had also been established.

A **Registration Authority** has been established by Council in accordance with Regulations to provide Quality Assurance and Quality Control of the National Vetting Committees, Licensed Bodies and procedures concerned with the award of the title of European Geologist. The Chairperson or a member of the Registration Authority attends Council Meetings.

The **Registration Authority** shall:

- (i) Inform the EFG Council of those National Associations that have established National Vetting Committees in accordance with Regulations;
- (ii) Propose to the EFG Council the establishment of a Licensed Body or the renewal of the licence;
- (iii) Maintain criteria for award of the title of European Geologist. These criteria shall be defined by Regulation and be subject to the approval of the EFG Council;
- (iv) Maintain criteria for the establishment of a Licensed Body as defined by Regulation. These criteria shall be subject to the approval of the EFG Council;
- (v) Carry out audits on National Vetting Committees and Licensed Bodies and report the results of these audits to the EFG Council;
- (vi) Require National Vetting Committees and Licensed Bodies to take corrective actions to rectify any deviations from procedures defined in the Regulations that may have been identified by audit;
- (vii) Propose to the EFG the disestablishing of any National Vetting Committees or rescinding of the licence of a Licensed Body if corrective actions arising from audits are not progressed or where, in the view of the Registration Authority, procedures as defined in the Regulations are not being followed;
- (viii) Receive reports from National Vetting Committees and Licensed Bodies on any matters dealt with under the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures. Refer matters to the EFG Council that, in the view of the Registration Authority, have not been dealt with in accordance with the Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures; and
- (ix) Report to the EFG Council on the activities of the Registration Authority and present this report at EFG Council Meetings.

- (x) Monitor activities of the EFG, the Council and the Board for compliance with the procedures set out in the Statutes and Regulations.
- (xi) Maintain the Statutes and Regulations and suggest any revisions or amendments that become necessary. These suggestions should be submitted to the Council for approval.
- (xii) Keep a watching brief on matters relating to the content and application of the Code of Ethics, including responding to any questions on ethical matters. Where appropriate form a temporary Ethics Committee as a sub-committee of the Registration Authority to consider any such matters.

2.3 Code of Ethics

The EFG has established a Code of Ethics to which all European Geologists are required to conform. A copy of this Code is included as Annex A to this report.

2.4 Disciplinary Procedures

Disciplinary procedures are established by Regulation to cover the following matters related to the title of European Geologist:

- Removal of a European Geologist on the grounds that significant misinformation was provided at the time the application for award of the title was submitted; and
- Investigation of allegations made against a European Geologist for breach of the Code of Ethics.

European Geologists may also be removed from the register on the following grounds:

- Failure to pay the annual registration fee; or
- Failure to submit acceptable records of Continued Professional Development.

2.5 Statistics

Number of European Geologists at end 2008	619
Number of new Title Holders in 2009	57
Number of lapsed European Geologists, which includes	13
• those who retired or resigned during 2009	
• those former title holders struck off during 2009 for failure to pay annual registration fee or submit acceptable CPD records	
Number of disciplinary investigations carried out during 2009	0
Number of European Geologists removed from the Register on the grounds of disciplinary actions during 2009	0
Number of European Geologists at end 2009	663

Annex A

Code of Ethics

Preamble

Geology is a science that deals with the composition, structure, resources, history and evolution of the Earth and the application of this science. The practice of geology is a profession for those who possess the necessary qualifications and/or professional experience recognised by their appropriate national body or under the law, and whose living comes essentially from that work.

General Principles

1. All geologists following this Code must pay regard to their professional conduct to the standards and to the spirit of the following clauses, so as not to harm the dignity of the profession.
2. The privilege of exercising the profession of geology demands the highest standards of integrity, morality, professional conscience and moral responsibility.
3. The geologist is responsible for the impression he/she gives of the profession in the opinion of those around him/her and of the public at large.
4. The geologist is obliged to maintain professional secrecy, and to protect third parties.

Relations with other Geologists

5. The rules of loyalty and honesty should control the actions of the geologist towards his/her colleagues, his employers and to third parties with whom he/she is in contact. In particular, he/she is required not to divulge information liable to discredit another colleague.
6. The geologist must not put his/her name to anything that is untrue, nor make agreements that prejudice his/her client's position.

Relations with Clients

7. The geologist must always inform his/her client of the true limitations of practical results that might be obtained from a given professional assistance, especially if it implies increased costs for the client.
8. The geologist must avoid any sort of negligence in the practice of his/her profession, especially when this gives rise to risks or of material or moral damage for his/her client or for the environment.
9. The geologist must not alter, or deny the existence of, facts or accepted technical or scientific truths which could thereby favour a client or mislead the public.

10. The geologist must not promise or broadcast specific professional advice that cannot be supported by a genuine, objective possibility, nor seek to publicise professional qualifications that he/she does not actually hold with the aim of keeping his client from going to other professional colleagues.
 - 10.1 The geologist must refer, or advise reference, to the help of other specialists whenever the interests of his/her employer or client are thereby better served. He/she must, in his/her conclusions, distinguish between his/her own work and that of his/her colleagues.
 - 10.2 If, after having given his/her advice, a geologist becomes aware that it will not be entirely followed, he/she should, regardless of his/her own position, inform the relevant person of the foreseen risks.
11. The geologist should not take on the functions of an expert in fields of interest other than his/her own to one of his/her regular clients or one for whom he/she has already given advice.