



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES GÉOLOGUES
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS
FEDERACIÓN EUROPEA DE GEÓLOGOS

GEONEWS JUNE 2008

Info and news from the European Legislation Process, events and funding related to the Panel of Experts and EFG members:

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1. EFG WORKSHOP

EFG PAST EVENTS

- ✓ **International Conference *Geology and Water Management: Resources, Risks and Regulations (3Rs)***

On 30 May the Association of Greek Geologists (AGG) with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) organized an International Conference about geology and water management; here is the press release:

Press release

European Geologists warn over future water supply problems in Europe

The reduction of fresh water resources is of great concern all over the world. In Europe the Mediterranean region is especially affected by climatic changes, resulting from desertification, erosion and floods, leading to scarcity of available fresh water resources.

The severity of the problem has been recognized by the European Commission and guidelines have been developed to work towards sustainable use of fresh water resources. At the moment, the European Commission is working on a Groundwater Management Directive, such that the complex groundwater systems are managed in a proper way.

To manage the groundwater system, it is important to fully understand all factors that control the water cycle. These include rainfall, rock properties (e.g. porosity) and impact of human activities, like industrial and agricultural activities.

Improper use of fertilizers and excessive use of water for irrigation purposes are of particular concern in relation to pollution and reduction of groundwater levels.

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and the Association of Greek Geologists (AGG) recognize the need to bring together policy-makers and experts all over the world to discuss these problems in more detail and look for solutions to improve the sustainable use of our fresh water resources. Therefore, the EFG and the AGG organized the international conference on Geology and Water Management in Athens, 30th May 2008.

The conference was attended by about 200 people. Representatives of the parties of the Greek Parliament, eminent personalities of NGOs, representatives of Ministries of Development, the secretary of the Water Authority of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Public Works and the President and General Director of the Geological Survey attended and addressed the conference.

In the plenary session of the symposium the views and recommendations of the European Commission (DG Environment) on the Groundwater Management Directive were presented. In addition, the conference included presentations of technical contributions covering all ranges of fresh water management, focusing especially on Greece and the Mediterranean region. These included papers on management and risks of floods in areas that were destroyed by wildfires, on recharge of groundwater reservoirs, on monitoring of fresh water quality and pollution mitigation and on surface and artificial subsurface storage of fresh water.

The conclusions of the conference were that there is a strong need to improve communication between policy-makers and experts. Especially important is the incorporation of expert knowledge on groundwater systems in directives on groundwater management and on the sustainable use of fresh water resources.

The European Federation of Geologists will continue its successful discussions with the European Commission to improve the Groundwater Management Directive.

The Association of Greek Geologists will take this forward at national level. Furthermore, it is very important to raise general awareness of the strong decline in fresh water resources, especially to policy-makers and society.

The combination of careful use of fresh water by industry, agriculture and individuals, together with the implementation of good groundwater management should lead to stability and preservation of our fresh water resources in Europe.

The President of EFG

The President of AGG

Manuel Regueiro

Antonis Angelopoulos

✓ **GREEN WEEK 2008**

The European Federation of Geologists participated in the European Commission's Green Week 2008 (3 – 6 June) with a session and a stand on the exhibition shared with EuroGeoSurveys and International Year of Planet Earth.

This year, the topic of the event was "Only One Earth. Don't waste it!". It was focused in four themes: Resources and Waste Management, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Nature and Biodiversity, and Climate Change. EFG chose to



Photo in the stand with the speakers

concentrate on the theme Resources and Waste Management and had used a document from UFG (Union Française des Géologues) to prepare the poster.

During this event, we supplied many documents: leaflets about EFG, the document from UFG, papers in relation to the poster, European Geologist Magazine... Also, we had a presentation working on the computer in the stand.

The title of the session was: European Geology in the International Year of Planet Earth. The presentations and speakers were:

- *Geologist at the service of citizens*, Dr. Pierre Andrieux, Vice President UFG, Professor emeritus University Pierre & Marie Curie.
- *The International Year of Planet Earth, a contribution to Sustainable Resource Management*, Dr. Werner Janoschek, Goodwill Ambassador of International Year of Planet Earth.
- *Natural resources challenges for the XXIst century: the mineral resources example*, Dr. Patrice Christmann, EuroGeoSurveys Secretary General.

All documents (presentations, leaflets...) are available to download on the website and there are some photos from Green Week 2008:

http://www.eurogeologists.de/cms/index.php?page=153#Green_Week_2008

EFG FUTURE EVENTS

✓ 33RD INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS OSLO 2008

6 - 14 August



The International Geological Congress - IGC has every four years been the meeting place for people interested in Earth Science, and in 2008 the Nordic countries will arrange the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway. 2008 will be 'The Year of Earth Sciences' including the 33rd IGC, the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), and the International Polar Year (IPY). With its strong emphasis on cross-disciplinary symposia,

Earth sciences' societal impact, and on the Arctic, the Congress in Oslo will give you a unique opportunity to discuss high-level science in a broad perspective.

EFG participates with a session with the title: *Issues for geologists in 21st century - mitigation of man's influence and serving society's needs*. Link to the summary of the session: <http://www.33igc.org/coco/EntryPage.aspx?t=IGCC&containerid=10823&parentid=5005&objectid=10741&guid=1&nodeid=0&pageid=5002&rootcontainerid=10823&lnodeid=11#wss21>

We would like to invite you to attend this session. The participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Download the registration form (http://www.eurogeologists.de/cms/images/content/33_IGC/Registration_form.doc)

More information:

<http://www.33igc.org>

✓ 3RD INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGY CONFERENCE (IPGC)

September 20-24, 2008



The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) are hosting their Annual Meetings in conjunction with the 3rd International Professional Geology Conference (3rd IPGC) at the High Country Conference Center at the Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the Radisson Hotel in Flagstaff, Arizona. Overall meeting attendance is projected to reach 400-500 individual registrants.

EFG sponsored the technical session on *Expanding International Influence and Reach; Overcoming Challenges and Mapping Successful Strategies*:

<http://www.eurogeologists.de/cms/index.php?section=news&cmd=details&newsid=4>

More information and registration:

<http://www.aipg.org/2008/AIPG-AHS-3IPGC.htm>

2. GENERAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH (IYPE)



EFG offers some documents and a calendar of events on our website: www.eurogeologists.eu.

To send more information about the IYPE or add events, contact: jorge.garcia@naturalsciences.be

Events of IYPE:

DATE	TITLE	PLACE	INFORMATION
15 - 19 Jun	Symposium Systems Engineering for the Planet	Utrecht Netherlands	www.incose.org/symp2008/
21 Jun	Journey to the centre of a volcano	Carrick-a-rede, Ireland	ian.enlander@doeni.gov.uk
21 - 22 Jun	Fieldtrip to the Mullet Peninsula	Mullet Peninsula,	www.geology.ie corkgeology.homestead.com/cga.html

		Ireland	susan.pyne@ucd.ie
22 - 26 Jun	Osnabrück Townhall Terra Vita Geopark	Osnabrück, Germany	escher@klos.de kluttig@lkos.de www.geoparks2008.com
23 - 25 Jun	International BioGeoCivil Engineering Conference	Netherlands	www.biogeocivilengineering.com/
28 Jun	Puddingstone, caves and more	Cushendun, N. Ireland	ian.enlander@doeni.gov.uk

Events:

➤ **9th International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP).** Permafrost on a Warming Planet: Impacts on Ecosystems, Infrastructure and Climate. Fairbanks, USA. 29 June – 3 July. Summer 2008 represents a special time to celebrate our national and international permafrost heritage. Special efforts will be made to involve young researchers, educators and students of all ages, and native communities from all countries with an interest in permafrost science and engineering. More information: <http://www.nicop.org/>

➤ **10th International Symposium On Landslides And Engineered Slopes.** Xi'an, China. 30 June - 4 July. The symposium is one of the most important activities of the Joint Technical Committee on Landslides and Engineered Slopes (JTC1) under the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and International Association on Engineering Geology (IAEG). More information: www.landslide.iwhr.com

3. GEOTHERMAL AND CO2 SEQUESTRATION

Publication:

➤ **Uncertainty over CO2 capture in 'fossil future'.** With hundreds of new coal-fired power plants planned within and outside Europe in the coming decades, pressure is growing on the EU to commercialize and export carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies to prevent a massive rise in global CO2 emissions. But difficult financing issues remain unresolved. More information: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/uncertainty-co2-capture-fossil-future/article-172834>

➤ **Commission: 'Options exist' for CO2 storage funding.** The Commission says it is "open" to a discussion on how the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and EU state aid guidelines could be leveraged to fund the development of up to 15 carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration plants by 2020. But experts continue to diverge on the best way to raise the necessary cash. More information: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/commission-options-exist-co2-storage-funding/article-173010>

Events:

➤ **Geothermal Electricity & CHP in Europe: a technology for our future.** Strasbourg, France. 18 June. The meeting, which is a part of the RESTMAC project sponsored by the EC – FP6, will focus on the promotion of geothermal electricity and CHP applications all around

Europe. Experts from France, Germany, Italy and Spain will present the experience gained in that field, and will be available for discussion. More information: www.egec.org

➤ **Symposium Perspectives of Carbon Capture and Storage in Belgium.** Brussels, Belgium. 27 June. Carbon Capture and geological Storage (CCS) groups a number of technologies that may play an important role in reducing the CO₂ emission from industrial sources during the following decades. Recent initiatives, such as the preparation of the EU directive on CCS, have brought the discussion from the international level to Belgium and its regions.

More information: <http://www.pss-ccs.be/>. Contact: Karine.Wuyts@naturalsciences.be or Kris.Piessens@naturalsciences.be.

4. RENEWABLE ENERGY

Publication:

➤ **Managing the imbalance between energy supply and demand.** Renewable energy may help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it presents a problem for electricity suppliers: how to meet peak demand levels with increasing reliance on intermittent energy sources. A new analysis explores options for storage that would facilitate use of renewable energy, either in isolated locations or as part of the electricity grid. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/110na6.pdf>

5. HYDROGEOLOGY

Publication:

➤ **Predicting contamination of farmland after flooding.** Floods and the resulting damage to agricultural and urban environments are likely to increase as a result of climate change. Major floods in Europe, such as those affecting the Elbe River in Germany in August 2002, can result in contamination by heavy metals of flooded farmland. Taking zinc as an example, a new modelling approach showed that there was more than a one in three chance that contamination could exceed 500 mg zinc per kilo of sediment following future extreme events. More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/110na4.pdf>

Events:

➤ **Hydroenergia 2008.** Bled, Slovenia. 11 – 13 June. Hydroenergia conferences are the biggest and most important events for the small hydropower sector in Europe. Leading experts meet biennially to convey knowledge and best practice experiences to investors and professionals from different areas. More information:

[http://www.eshs.be/index.php?id=18&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=76&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=1&cHash=0942cb1f06](http://www.eshs.be/index.php?id=18&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=76&tx_ttnews[backPid]=1&cHash=0942cb1f06)

➤ **Water Management Congress Europe.** Prague, Czech Republic. 16 – 17 June. The congress will host up to 150 executives from municipalities and the water services industry looking for in-depth technical knowledge and competitive water management solutions. More information: <http://www.watermanagementeurope.com>

6. SOIL PROTECTION

Publications:

➤ **Tree biodiversity increases release of carbon from soils.** Soils play an important role in the carbon cycle, containing more than two thirds of the total carbon held in terrestrial ecosystems. Concern about climate change and rising CO₂ levels is driving research to understand carbon cycling through soils. New research suggests that in tropical regions greater tree diversity increases soil respiration (the release of carbon) rates, but also improves overall ecosystem health, which ultimately leads to greater carbon absorption. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/109na3.pdf>

➤ **Researchers study how soil breathes to understand carbon-cycling.** Soil respiration (SR) plays a major role in moving carbon from the ecosystem to the atmosphere. Converting land for agricultural use accelerates CO₂ emissions via SR. Planting trees (afforestation) has been heralded as a potential climate change mitigation approach. However, new research suggests that the effects of agricultural practices on peatland remain for decades and can continue to influence CO₂ emissions even 30 years after afforestation. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/110na1.pdf>

Events:

➤ **Geo-Environment & Landscape Evolution 2008** Third International Conference on Evaluation, Monitoring, Simulation, Management and Remediation of the Geological Environment and Landscape. The New Forest, United Kingdom. 16 – 18 June. This Conference aims to study the role of geosciences in environmental management. The geoscientific understanding of natural systems and their process is of fundamental relevance for proper use of the land. More information: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/geoenv08/

7. MINERALS AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

Publications:

➤ **Calculating the environmental cost of uranium mining.** Nuclear power is receiving growing attention from governments seeking ways to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, there is little detailed analysis of the true carbon costs of the nuclear industry. A new analysis suggests that eco-efficiency of uranium mining and milling, a key aspect of the efficiency of nuclear power generation, depends on the amount of uranium in the rocks being mined. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/109na4.pdf>

Events:

➤ **8th International Scientific Conference: Modern management of mine producing, geology and environmental protection. SGEM 2008.** Albena Complex, Bulgaria. 16 – 20 June. This is a conference that combines scientists and experts working in different mutually connected scientific fields – geology and mine surveying, developing, extraction and treatment of mineral resources, oil and gas, geodesy and geoinformatics, reclamation and environmental impact, environmental protection, European integration, and risk financing. More information: www.sgem.org Contact: sgem@sgem.org

➤ A Double Launch Event: The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IoM3) will host a unique double launch event to introduce two brand new innovations for the mining industry:

IMMA and the PERC Code. The launch will be celebrated with the Annual Prestige Lecture. London, United Kingdom. 17 June. More information:
www.eurogeologists.de/cms/images/content/LaunchDocumentIMMA
Contact: frances.perry@iom3.org

8. ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Events:

➤ **Engineering Geology through the Centuries.** London, United Kingdom. 17 June. The meeting will focus on the lives and achievements of five engineering geologists, who have made outstanding contributions to both their profession and science. More information:
<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/engineering/page3772.html>

9. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

↳ **GEOLOGIST**

Job Title: Marine Researcher

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Job description: The Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models (MUMM), department of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), is recruiting a Marine Researcher who will work on research projects in the field of remote sensing of coastal waters.

More information: <http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Jobs/>

↳ **GEOLOGIST**

Job Title: Geologist

Location: Houston, USA

Job description: ARCADIS is seeking a Full-Time Geologist for our Houston, Texas office to assist with subsurface investigation, remediation, and compliance oriented project work at a variety of sites.

More information: <http://www.gethydrologyjobs.com/geologist-houston-texas-527.htm>

↳ **HYDROGEOLOGIST**

Job Title: Urban Groundwater Processes Modeller

Location: Glen Osmond, Australia

Job description: An exciting opportunity exists within CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship for a high-calibre Urban Groundwater Processes Modeller to join a multidisciplinary team conducting research on Managed Aquifer Recharge.

More information: <http://www.gethydrologyjobs.com/urban-groundwater-processes-modeller-glen-osmond-australia-533.htm>

Click the next link to see more job opportunities in the field of Hydrogeology:
<http://www.hydrology-jobs.com/>