

# Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

*It's a great pleasure for us as new chairs of the WGCEF to introduce the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of our newsletter "The European Forecaster". First of all the WGCEF kindly thanks Meteo France for their big support and great work in publishing this edition.*

*Before we are speaking about scientific and forecasting aspects we have of course to focus on the humanitarian disaster of the refugee crisis that concerns Europe and also other parts of the world. Unfortunately we see that populist and nationalist tendencies propagate very fast within society and even within the political establishment. If we are looking back in the history this kind of behaviour has never solved any problems, moreover it leads to egoism and conflicts. The big problems can only be solved if we work together, therefore cooperation, honesty, tolerance and farsightedness are very important.*

*Now it's time to draw the attention on our working group. The WGCEF has not only the word 'cooperation' in its name, we are all practising collaboration successfully. This is our prosperity, which can also be seen in the increasing number of members joining our group. We want to express our warm welcome to our newest members Israel and Iceland.*

*Another example of good collaboration can be seen within the Task Team of Naming Storms in Europe that was set up by WGCEF with strong support by EUMETNET in 2013 due to increased use of storm names by media in cases of severe weather. This Task Team is working on harmonizing the storm names in Europe. More detailed information about this EUMETNET Task Team and more other interesting articles about science and application in operational forecasting you will find out in our newsletter.*

*Many thanks to those colleagues, who submitted an article!*

*We hope you enjoy our newsletter.*

*Best regards,*

Christian **Csekits** and Jos **Diepeveen**

*Chairpersons WGCEF*

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