

# Introduction



*Dear Readers and Colleagues,*

*It's a great delight and honour to introduce the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter "The European Forecaster". The success of a publication on a regular yearly basis is only possible due to the great work of many colleagues. Therefore we would like to express our deepest thanks to Mr. Bernard Roulet and his colleagues at Meteo France for printing the newsletter. Many thanks go to all the authors for submitting articles. We kindly address our warmest gratitude to Mrs. Stephanie Jameson and Mr. Nicholas Roe for reviewing the incoming articles. Last but not least, we want to thank Mr. Andre-Charles Letestu for updating our WGCEF website [www.euroforecaster.org](http://www.euroforecaster.org) continuously.*

*Looking back over the last twelve months, many severe weather events took place in Europe. During late spring and summer 2018 a strong and very stable anticyclone over Scandinavia caused a very dry and hot period, thus bringing drought and heat waves to many parts of Central, North-western and Northern Europe. For example big forest fires, low water levels in rivers and lakes, heat stress and crop failure occurred.*

*In autumn 2018 intensive cyclogenesis over the Mediterranean Sea led to impressive rainfall rates with severe flooding and strong wind gusts over Italy, southern parts of Austria and on the Balkan Peninsula.*

*In January 2019 a persistent north-westerly and northerly flow brought long-lasting and extreme snowfall north of the Alps. Many streets and train lines were blocked, a lot of villages couldn't be reached due to avalanches. Numerous power lines were broken because of the enormous amount of snow.*

*As forecasters we are taking a leading role in supporting people, decision-makers and civil protection agencies in preparation for these severe weather events to minimise or even avoid damage to human life and infrastructure. To keep, or even improve, the high quality of forecasts cooperation and scientific exchange between the different NMSs is essential, which is one important goal of our working group.*

*We had a very interesting and productive WGCEF meeting 2018 in Tel Aviv - a big thank you goes to Mrs. Alissa Razy, Mr. Amit Savir, Director-General Mr. Nir Stav and their colleagues for the warm and generous hospitality.*

*We hope you find this newsletter enjoyable and informative.*

*Best regards,*

**Christian Csekits and Jos Diepeveen**  
Chairpersons WGCEF