

Introduction



Dear Readers and Colleagues,

It's a great delight and honour to introduce the 25th edition of our newsletter 'The European Forecaster'. The success of this publication on a regular yearly basis is only possible because of the excellent work of many colleagues. Therefore we would like to say thank you to Mr. Bruno Gillet-Chaulet and his colleagues at Meteo France for printing the newsletter. We kindly address our warmest gratitude to all the authors for writing articles about new ideas, recent developments and interesting case studies in the field of weather forecasting. Many thanks go to Mr. Nicholas Roe for reviewing the incoming articles. Last but not least, we want to thank Mr. Andre-Charles Letestu for continuously updating our WGCEF website www.euroforecaster.org. We had a very interesting and productive WGCEF meeting 2019 in Dublin – warmest gratitude to Mrs. Evelyn Cusack, Mr. Andrew Doran-Sherlock, Director Mr. Eoin Moran and their colleagues for the warm and generous hospitality.

This year we decided not to make our traditional severe weather review of the last year, although there were a lot of interesting cases with high impact weather. We would like to focus on another topic: A non-meteorological event; the COVID-19 pandemic with the subsequent national lockdowns causing one of the worst humanitarian and economic crises in our recent history. The COVID-19 pandemic also influenced meteorological services as they have lost some of their costumers and duties (e.g. no air traffic; no outdoor events, etc.). Such a big pandemic causes a global crisis that can only be solved together, if all nations, people and decision-makers help each other. Therefore altruism, frankness, farsightedness and cooperation are very important. Many initiatives by governmental and non-governmental organisations are very successful in helping others to avoid poverty and sorrow.

The aspect of cooperation and support is widespread in the science community, too. One example –among thousands- is the WGCEF, a working group with the word 'cooperation' at it's core, both literally and figuratively. We are all actively embodying this word by exchanging knowledge, technology and experience between NMSs. To keep or even improve the high quality of cooperation in regard to forecasts and scientific exchange between the different NMSs is essential and an important goal of our working group.

Last but not least we want to express our warmest thanks to Mr. Bernard Roulet, who left our working group this year due to his retirement. Bernard has always been very active and has taken a leading part within our working group. He regularly held presentations at our annual meetings and was written many of articles for the newsletter. Moreover he has motivated many other colleagues to submit articles for 'The European Forecaster'. He was one of the initiators behind Meteo France printing our newsletter. It has always been a great pleasure to work, discuss and cooperate with you, Bernard! On behalf of all delegates of the WGCEF we wish you, Bernard, all the best for the future, make your dreams and wishes become true and stay healthy and safe!

We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting, enjoyable and informative.

Best regards,

Christian Csekits and Jos Diepeveen
Chairpersons WGCEF