

Introduction



Dear Readers and Colleagues,

It's a great pleasure and honour to introduce the 27th edition of our newsletter 'The European Forecaster'. The success of a publication on a regular, yearly basis is only possible because of the excellent work of many colleagues. Therefore, we would like express our gratitude to Meteo-France, in particular Mr. Bruno Gillet-Chaulet and his colleagues at the printing department for publishing our newsletter. We would like to say thank you to Mr. Nicholas Roe of the Met Office, too, for reviewing the incoming articles. Many thanks go to all the authors for submitting articles in the field of weather forecasting. We kindly address our warmest appreciation to our Swiss colleague Mr. Andre-Charles Letestu for continuously updating the WGCEF website; www.euroforecaster.org.

In February 2022 the political situation in Europe changed dramatically with the crucial attack of Ukraine by Russia. Within the first days of this war, many NMSs were forced to issue potential trajectory charts for incidents occurring at Ukrainian Atomic power plants to give advice to the state authorities in terms of nuclear safety. The involved NMSs reacted rapidly and flexibly to this new situation and did a successful and important job. This showed the importance of the NMSs by providing relevant information and advice to civil protection and the public.

When looking back to weather phenomena in Europe during the last year we have observed again the dramatic impact of climatic change on the actual weather. As weather patterns are more stable and longer lived, phenomena such as floods, droughts or heat waves are occurring with great frequency and intensity in mid latitude regions. Last summer many forest fires came to prominence, especially in the Mediterranean region, with a huge influence on the ecosystems of those affected places. During the autumn and winter season a distinct and steady westerly and north-westerly flow occurred over many parts of Europe. As a consequence, these seasons were rather warm with many severe storms especially in Western Europe and the northern parts of Central and Eastern Europe. In June 2022 a major heatwave took place in Portugal, Spain and France. At the time of writing, in July, another heatwave is occurring on the Iberian Peninsula which will move further north-eastward to have an impact on wide areas in Europe. In Austria the Sonnblick observatory (3109m above sea level) has been, for the first time in July, free of snow cover (since snow depth records began 80 years ago).

Severe weather hazards have a strong impact on humans, infrastructure, vegetation and soil. Therefore weather forecasts and warnings should be precise in location, time and intensity, thus minimizing or even preventing damages, saving lives and reducing costs. This is one major, even the most important, goal of the weather forecasting community. Based on their knowledge, expertise and experience forecasters are able to provide excellent and relevant advice to the stakeholders, all kinds of weather affected costumers and the public by issuing impact-based weather and warning information. This requires highly skilled and regularly trained forecasting staff, a good and stable IT-infrastructure, scientific exchange and cooperation.

To maintain or even improve on the high quality of forecasting; cooperation and scientific exchange between the different NMSs is crucial. This is one important goal of our working group: the WGCEF.

We have a lot of interesting articles in our newsletter covering the field of applied meteorology. The majority of the publications in this edition are about convective events at the extreme end of climatology. We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting, enjoyable and informative.

Best regards,

Christian Csekits and Jos Diepeveen,
Chairpersons, WGCEF