

Introduction



Dear Readers and Colleagues

It's a great delight and honour to introduce the 29th 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 to say thank you to Mr. Bruno Gillet-Chaulet and his colleagues at Meteo France for publishing our first all electronic newsletter, which you will also find on our WGCEF website www.euroforecaster.org. Many thanks go to Mr. Nicholas Roe and his colleagues at the Met Office for reviewing the incoming articles. 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.

Severe weather hazards have strong impact on humans, infrastructure, vegetation and ground. Therefore precise severe weather warnings in time, location and intensity can minimize or even prevent damages, save lives and reduce financial loss. This is one major -even the most important- mission of weather forecasters. With their expertise, knowledge and experience forecasters are able to provide excellent advice to the public, stakeholders and all kind of weather-dependent users by issuing impact-oriented weather and warning information. Various requirements are necessary to be able to do this job accurately: regular training, good IT-infrastructure, intelligent tools, sufficient meteorological and non-meteorological data sources, scientific exchange and cooperation.

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 WGCEF.

In this newsletter we have tried to make an interesting compilation of articles dealing with the above mentioned critical aspects of the forecaster's job. As always, our warning systems are under continuous construction and new developments are presented.

We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting, enjoyable and informative and we wish you a nice reading!

Best regards,,

Jos Diepeveen (KNMI) and Thomas Vanhamel (RMIB)
Chairpersons, WGCEF