

Introduction

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the tenth issue of the *European Forecaster*, newsletter of the Working Group on Cooperation between European Forecasters (WGCEF). We have a selection of articles, some of which were presented at the last meeting in Madrid and others that have been sent to myself or other members of the group directly. We encourage any reader to contribute in the interest of sharing information with other forecasters across Europe. Case studies of severe weather are always welcome. Contact information can be found at the back of the newsletter.

Our Madrid meeting in November was highly successful and again provided an informal atmosphere for members to discuss relevant matters. The pleasant sunny weather was a bonus, especially for some of the members from northern Europe where a taste of winter had already been experienced. A meeting report can be found in this issue.

The EMMA project was a particular discussion point in Madrid with members supporting a proposal to create a workable system as soon as possible to deliver the primary aim of exchanging information and dealing with disaster mitigation during severe weather events. An example where EMMA would have proved useful occurred in January 2005 when an intense low pressure brought damaging winds and flooding to some Scandinavian countries and Baltic States. Forecasters in the United Kingdom contacted their European counterparts before the storm struck and exchanged model information. Unfortunately, our Estonian colleagues received a great deal of criticism despite warnings being issued well in advance. WGCEF members were asked for advice and provided moral support. This is an example of where we can all work together.

Our website has been updated during the winter and thanks go to André-Charles Letestu for his hard work. The new address is: <http://www.euroforecaster.org> – just click on the logo.

The next meeting will be held in Utrecht, Holland following the 7th ECAM conference and 5th annual meeting of the European Meteorological Society (EMS). By this time, we will be celebrating TEN years of WGCEF following its creation by Manfred Kurz in 1995.

Nick **Grahame**
Chairperson of WGCEF