

# Introduction

Dear readers,

Being the new chairperson of the WGCEF these are my first introductory words for our newsletter. I feel very honoured to be chosen as the new chair person of the Working Group on Cooperation between European Forecasters. It will not be easy to compete with the former chair person Nick Grahame, but with the support from Herbert Gmoser (ZAMG) as the co-chairperson it should be possible to keep the high spirit up for the next four years.

This beautiful coloured edition of our 13<sup>th</sup> European Forecaster newsletter reflects again the great presentations we have seen during our last meeting in El Escorial in October 2007. Thanks to our hosts from INM we were able to have a very interesting meeting from which you will find the written report in this edition as well. All articles were reviewed by great help from Nick Grahame and Will Lang (both from UKMO). With the help from Bernard Roulet and his employer Météo France we are able to offer you again a high quality printed edition. Also gratitude should be paid at the address of our webmaster André-Charles Letestu (Météo Suisse). Visiting our website [www.euroforecaster.org](http://www.euroforecaster.org) is really worthwhile. It offers you lots of additional information on the Working Group and many website links, the web archive will show you previous editions of the Newsletter.

Further on I would like to encourage any reader of the newsletter to contribute to future issues of our newsletter. During our El Escorial meeting we agreed to have presentations and intense discussion on the role of meteorologists issuing severe weather warnings at our upcoming meeting in 2008. From the psychological perspective the responsibility that comes together with this task can be quite heavy. We would like also to zoom in on this “human factor” during our next meeting in Copenhagen, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2008. Any ideas and additional input on this topic from other European Forecasters is highly appreciated in advance. In Copenhagen we also welcome contributions on verification of severe weather warnings across WGCEF NMS's.

In the mean time I hope all of the articles in this newsletter will give you inspiring reading hours and will reflect the high level of discussions we have had during our meeting. It could be an invitation to representatives from other European countries, not already being presented within the WGCEF, to join during our next meeting.

Frank **Kroonenberg**  
*Chairperson of WGCEF*