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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the ninth issue of the *European Forecaster*, newsletter of the Working Group on Cooperation between European Forecasters (WGCEF). I hope that you will find the enclosed articles of interest with a wide range of topics covered as usual. At this point, may I encourage any reader to contribute if they wish to. Case studies of severe weather are always interesting and there have certainly been some extremes of weather across Europe over the last couple of years. Contact information can be found at the back of the newsletter.

Our last meeting in Rome, following the ECAM conference, was very successful and gave us a chance to meet some members of the Italian Meteorological Service in addition to catching up with old friends. The hot and sunny weather seemed to fit in very well with our WGCEF logo. You will find a meeting report in this issue.

WGCEF is all about building links between forecasters across Europe and I'm pleased to see that the EMMA program is progressing well. Just to remind everyone that EMMA stands for European Multi-service Meteorological Awareness and it will provide a major step forward in sharing severe weather information. Members of our group have been heavily involved with this EUMETNET sponsored program and Frank Kroonenberg has an article in this newsletter about progress. Look out for a link to EMMA on your NMS website soon.

The New Year has brought a change of Chairperson with Liisa Fredrikson standing down after an agreed four-year period. I am looking forward to taking the group forward and will be seeking to strengthen ties with the European Meteorological Society. Links to EMS and other meetings can be found on our website: <http://wgcef.fmi.fi>.

Our next meeting will be the 10th of its kind so some form of celebration is in order. At the time of writing, the venue and date still have to be confirmed. In the meantime, enjoy your reading.

Nick **Grahame**
Chairperson of WGCEF