



Earth Science Europe

**Earth Science Europe the next steps:
Towards an Earth Science Board and a voice in Europe for Earth Science.**
Tuesday 19th April 2016, European Geophysical Union General Assembly, Vienna, Austria.
17:30 to 19:00

MEETING REPORT

Attendees:

- John Ludden (NERC British Geological Survey / ESE Chair)
- Chris Ballentine (Oxford University / European Association of Geochemistry)
- Mike Young (Geological Survey of Northern Ireland / Geological Society, London)
- Paolo Papale (Director, Division of Volcanoes, Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia)
- Ramon Carbonell (Institute of Earth Sciences Jaume Almera of the Spanish Scientific Research Council (ICTJA-CSIC))
- Marek Lewandowski (Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences)
- Beata Orlecka-Sikora (Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences)
- Vitor Correia (President, European Federation of Geologists)
- Gilbert Camoin, (ECORD Managing Agency)
- Nicholas Arndt (EGU outreach committee)
- Sarah Connors (EGU Science Policy Fellow)
- Christeline Mottet (EuroGeoSurveys science officer)

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction and welcome (John Ludden)
- Future participation in Earth Science Europe
- The proposed formation of an Earth Science Board for Europe
- Wrap up (John Ludden)

An Earth Science Board (ESB)

Proposed Mandate:

To provide a pan-European platform for its member organisations to develop common priorities, to advance solid earth science research and to bridge the gap between science and policy, in order to meet future earth science challenges and opportunities. It should be a platform for European engagement in international science programmes and provides strategic science policy advice to the European Commission, National Governments and international bodies.

ESB Key issues to be answered:

Issue 1: Terms of Reference and Structure

Issue 2: Host and legal status

Issue 3: Membership

Membership/representation

Membership of c.10-20 proposed.

Considerations:

- Sectors to represent
- Organisations
- People
- Geographic spread



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EARTH SCIENCE EUROPE: THE FUTURE

John Ludden stated that the overarching aim was to have **a platform for which the Earth-science community can publish statements on relevant topics as one voice**, which will carry more weight than statements made by individual organisations. It should give “official” recognition to publication of position papers. Support for a common platform for the Earth Sciences or Board was confirmed, however the question of its overarching goal was raised.

The **current European Marine Board** (<http://www.marineboard.eu/>) was presented as an example of how a broad range of organisations can be brought together. An **Earth Science Board** (ESB) should not be limited to earth sciences, but should also include “interface” sciences such as hydrology, soil science, etc. It was proposed that members should include major organisations from academia, national academies, professional organisations, industrial associations etc., but not private companies. Specific membership was not explored further. It was felt that this Board should be a platform to explore novel ideas and concepts requiring joint research effort and that might also have far reaching socio-economic impacts.

NEXT STEPS

The preparation of a formal **White Paper** outlining the (solid) Earth Science Board for, including its composition and remit was proposed by Marek Lewandowski. This was supported by attendees, who agreed this would complement the existing Earth Science Europe brochure. **Action: Vicky Hards**

The creation of a Board raised the following issues which should be covered by the white paper:

- Membership - an MoU was also suggested
- Funding model
- Statutes
- Activities

A Board would also require a host and **registered address**. John Ludden suggested either the EGU or the EGS. Regarding EGS hosting the Board, Christeline Mottet advised that this would have to be approved by the EGS ExCom. Sarah Connors expressed concern regarding the feasibility of using EGU. EGU's address is within the Ludwig-Maximilian University. She is to check the feasibility of using EGU. She also cautioned it would need to be approved by the EGU Council, which meet twice a year, meaning a quick decision is unlikely to be possible. **Action: Sarah Connors**

Finally, the question of funding was raised, accepting that an ESB would require permanent secretariat and would thus incur at least some costs. Options include membership payments or external funding mechanisms. The example of the Marine Board was raised again, which is funded through **a membership fees**. John Ludden suggested that at this stage, support should be purely in-kind, but that in future a membership fee structure should be considered.

With special thanks to meeting rapporteurs, Sarah Connors (EGU) and Christeline Mottet (EGS).

Vicky Hards
ESE Coordinator
04 May 2016

<http://www.earthscienceeurope.org>

