



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES GÉOLOGUES
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS
FEDERACIÓN EUROPEA DE GEÓLOGOS

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The EFG Office would kindly like to invite you to send us information from your own national association for our next issue of GeoNews until **5 December**.

1. EFG News and News from EFG Members

EFG:



4th International Professional Geology Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 22-24 January 2012.

The theme of this conference for which EFG is co-convenor is "Earth Science - Global Practice". EFG will organize section 7 "Geoscience in an Interdisciplinary World" and Session 8 "Serving Society - Effective Public Engagement".

The online registration for the 4th IPGC is now [open](#).



34th International Geological Congress, Brisbane, Australia, 5-10 August 2012.

The third circular for this event can now be downloaded [here](#) and you can register directly via the website at <http://www.34igc.org/>.

EFG will participate in the 34th IGC with a symposium on "[Strengthening communication between fundamental and applied geosciences and between geoscientists and public](#)" (Theme 36, Symposium 10).

Greece:



Successful EFG support for IGME (Geological Survey of Greece).

EFG and other international organisations as well as local institutions have succeeded in influencing positively the Greek government that threatened earlier this year in the light of the economical crisis to close IGME. The ministry of energy environment and climate change announced in October that IGME and two other research institutes under his supervision will merge and form the Centre For Sustainable Development.

Nevertheless, drastic measures for reducing the expenses of IGME are to be taken and the personnel will be reduced to 180 employees.

Spain:



Roundtable with deputies of PP, PSOE and UPyD at ICOG, 24 October 2011.

One month before the Spanish parliamentary elections, spokespersons from the three main political parties pointed out during a roundtable organised by ICOG on the environmental programmes of the respective parties the importance of geology for infrastructure.

You can find the full article [here](#).

Article, El Pais, How not to handle a volcanic eruption, El Hierro residents and scientists have criticized the management of a disaster of possible epic proportions as improvised and poorly coordinated.

To read the full article please click [here](#).

UK:



Carbon Capture & Storage, The Geological Society, London, 22-23 November 2011.

This conference co-organised by the Geological Society and AAPG will bring together geoscientists and reservoir engineers seeking to understand and quantify capacity, integrity and injectivity of CO2 storage processes.

More information:

http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/ccs_nov2011

Model Fusion Conference 2011, The Geological Society, 28-29 November 2011.

This conference will present recent progresses in Model Fusion research with a view to linking processes from across the environmental sciences to enable a trans-disciplinary and holistic understanding of the environment.

More information: <http://www.model-fusion.org/>

2. General

Events:

International Declaration on Geoethics, AGID Working Group for Geoethics, Pribram, Czech Republic, October 2011.

The traditional international section on Geoethics was organized in the framework of the 50th Jubilee Mining Pribram Symposium. You can find its recommendations

[here](#).

3. Oil and Gas

European Institutions:

Offshore oil drilling: European Commission envisages EU safety rules.

After the EU-Parliament's [resolution](#) from September, the EC now softens on her part its call for a moratorium on offshore drilling pronounced in the wake. Nevertheless, the European Commission intends to enforce the safety rules for offshore oil drilling in the EU and to create for the first time a European wide legislation on oil platforms. Key elements of the paper include: criteria for granting drilling permits, controls of rigs, safety control mechanisms and financial liability. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/oil/offshore/standards_en.htm of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Suspension of the vote on the Fuel Quality Directive.

Under pressure from the Canadian government, the vote of the EU's Fuel Quality Committee on the Fuel Quality Directive presented on 3 October 2011 has been delayed until the next meetings of the expert group. Several national delegations declared not to be ready yet to vote on this directive which would rule out the import of oil from Canadian tar sands assigned with a high default greenhouse gas value that would reflect the environmental damages oil from tar sand causes. More information: <http://www.euractiv.com>

Publications:

[Deepwater drilling: improve safety indicators to help prevent disasters](#)

From an analysis of risk assessments in the Norwegian oil and gas industry, a new study suggests that current safety approaches and indicators are limited and more extensive monitoring of drilling operations is needed to avoid events similar to Deepwater Horizon.

Source: Skogdalen, J.E., Utne, I.B. & Vinnem, J.E. (2011) Developing safety indicators for preventing offshore oil and gas deepwater drilling blowouts. *Safety Science*. 49:1187-1199.

[Natural fertilisation of sea hints at effects of geoengineering projects](#)

New research investigating the effects of naturally occurring iron fertilisation in the sea suggests that large scale geoengineering projects designed to sequester carbon in the deep sea could have a dramatic impact on marine ecosystems. The study found that the organic matter arriving at the sea floor and the species that live there are very different, depending on whether waters are fertilised by iron leached from nearby islands or not.

Source: Wolff, G.A., Billett, D.S.M., Bett, B.J., et al. (2011). The effects of natural iron fertilisation on deep-sea ecology: The Crozet Plateau, Southern Indian Ocean. *PLoS One*. 6(6): e20697.

The study is free to view at:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0020697>

4 Minerals

Events:



CRIRSCO reporting standards workshop, London, 3 November 2011.

You can find [here](#) all presentations given during this meeting on the subject of "International Minerals Reporting - globalisation and regulation".

5. Renewable Energy

Events:



GEOTRAINET + Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 14 October 2011.

The official activities of the GEOTRAINET project have come to an end in spring 2011, but EGEC and EFG have organised on 14 October a Geotrainet + meeting evaluating future activities in continuation of the project. All presentations given during the meeting as well as a [pressrelease](#) can be found at: www.geotrainet.eu

Energy Roadmap 2050: Choosing the sustainable pathway for the power sector, Brussels, Belgium, 22 November 2011.

The European Commission is expected to present an Energy Roadmap 2050 in December this year. This roadmap will outline various pathways to reach the objectives of the energy sector, especially the established EU priorities such as sustainability, energy security and competitiveness. In this context, a Coalition of European utilities (SSE, Eneco and Dong Energy) organises a conference with the title "Choosing the sustainable pathway for decarbonising the power sector". More information: <http://www.h2euro.org>



GeoPower Europe, The official conference of the European Geothermal Energy Council, Milan, Italy, 6-7 December 2011.

More information: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk>

Publications:



JRC Report on Critical Metals in Strategic Energy Technologies.

The Institute for Energy and Transport of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission has conducted a study to assess whether there could be any potential bottlenecks to the deployment of low-carbon energy technologies in the EU due to the shortage of certain metals. The study examined the use of metals in the six low-carbon energy technologies of SET-Plan, namely: nuclear, solar, wind, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage and the electricity grid.

You will find more information on this report [here](#).

6. Soil

Events:

World Soil Day, Berlin, 5-6 November 2011.

You can find more information on this event in German language [here](#).

On 23 November will also be organised a Roundtable on the subject of "[Soil as natural capital](#)" at the European Parliament at Brussels.

7. Natural Hazards

Events:



Conference on Understanding Extreme Geohazards, Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain, 27 November - 2 December 2011.

This conference is organised by the European Science Foundation (ESF) in partnership with the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). The application deadline closed on 18 September but you can contact the conference officer in order to know more about the registration procedure: <http://www.esf.org>.

8. Jobs and Training

Jobs:

Job Offer: Core loggers/technicians, graduate mine geologists, intermediate and senior geos

Company: Cowan International (Canada)

Requirements: All candidates must possess a thorough working knowledge of French.

Place: Northern Quebec

Contact: Elyse Burns, elyse@cowaninternational.com

Training:

Course: [Applied Geomorphology](#); CPD Course 4: Ground Models; 5 day intensive course

University: University of Sussex, UK

Dates: 28 November - 2 December 2011

Registration: www.sussex.ac.uk/geography/pgstudy

Contact: geomorphology@sussex.ac.uk

We hope you enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter and would be pleased to receive your comments or indications of events relevant to the geological profession in Europe.

Kind regards,
EFG Office

EFG Office, Rue Jenner 13, B-1000 Brussels www.eurogeologists.eu