



## IAG REFERENCE FRAME SUB-COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (EUREF)

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**Prof. Dr. Sierd Cloetingh**

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*Subject: Cooperation of EUREF with the TOPO-EUROPE Project*

Dear Prof. Dr. Sierd Cloetingh

I'm writing you on behalf of EUREF, the Reference Frame Sub-commission for Europe of the International Association of Geodesy.

It came recently to my knowledge your interest in having the cooperation of the geodetic institutional partners in Europe to the TOPO\_EUROPE Project, in the frame of the International Lithosphere Programme.

Given its long experience in several branches of Geodesy, I believe that a cooperation between EUREF and the TOPO-EUROPE Project could be beneficial for both.

Let me make a short description of EUREF and the EUREF Permanent Network (EPN), the component that can be more interesting to the TOPO-EUROPE Project.

The EUREF Sub-commission was created in 1987. Its main objective is the definition, realization and maintenance of the European reference system and respective realization, to be used Europe-wide in all scientific and practical activities related to precise geo-referencing and navigation, Earth Sciences research and multidisciplinary applications.

A key instrument in maintaining the European reference system is the EPN, created more than 12 years ago and consisting presently of about 200 GPS permanent stations covering homogeneously the European continent. The EPN constitutes the European contribution to, and densification of, the International GPS Service (IGS), and contributes also to the realization of the International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS).

The EPN (<http://www.epncb.oma.be/>) products are widely used and are already exchanged with other communities involved in the atmospheric sciences and geo-sciences research.

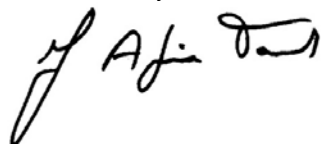
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Considering the TOPO-EUROPE fields of investigation, the exploitation of the EPN products could represent an added value to that Project, since a considerable percentage of the EPN stations is co-located with Tide Gauges and other geodetic instrumentation suitable for geodynamics analysis.

EUREF is a wide-open community of scientists, researchers and engineers, coming from almost all European countries. For a better information on our organization and activities, I invite you to visit the EUREF web portal at <http://www.euref-iag.net> or <http://www.euref-iag.eu>.

Please, don't hesitate to contact me to provide more details or any clarification, if needed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Agria Torres', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(João Agria Torres)  
Chairman of EUREF