



IAG REFERENCE FRAME SUB-COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (EUREF)

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Dr. Qais Sultan
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Subject: International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG): Membership

Dear Sir

I'm writing you on behalf of EUREF (www.euref-iaf.eu), the Reference Frame Sub-commission for Europe of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG).

The long-term objective of EUREF is the definition, realization and maintenance of the European Reference Systems, in close cooperation with the pertinent IAG components as well as with EuroGeographics, the consortium of the National Mapping and Cadastre Agencies (NMCA) in Europe.

EUREF must provide the best possible unique and homogeneous 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. For that, EUREF makes use of the most accurate and reliable terrestrial and space-borne techniques available.

One of the main projects included in the EUREF activities is the EUREF Permanent Network (EPN) that covers homogeneously the European continent. This project is running for more than 12 years, and deals with the maintenance, data collection, archiving, processing and analysis of a GNSS network of about 190 stations. The EPN contributes to the maintenance of the European Terrestrial Reference Frame and the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as well.

Following the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), I would like to express our will in cooperating in such an initiative and participate actively in the work. As a matter of fact, EUREF, through the EPN, can be included in the 'compatible ground-based systems', as stated in 12 (b) of the Draft Terms of Reference of ICG, published in March 2, 2006.

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

I thank you in advance for your attention to this subject and wait for your reply.

Yours sincerely

(João Agria Torres)
Chairman of EUREF

Cc: Dr. Zuheir Altamimi, President of the IAG Regional Reference Frames Sub-commission