

Dear colleagues and friends

After three days of intensive and fruitful work, it's time to close the EUREF 2006 Symposium in Riga.

During the Symposium we had the opportunity to be acquainted with new important developments as, for example, the coming ITRF2005, the upgrades in the EPN, the scientific and technical issues related with the definition of the EVRS, the new contributions to the EUVN_DA project, the densification and extension of the ETRF by means of GPS campaigns, the velocity field in the Eurasian plate, just to mention a few.

The discussions showed that we are aware of and prepared to the future challenges, and also that our work is more and more interconnected with other fields of science and technology as, for instance, the meteorological community represented by EUMETNET, with whom we will establish a Memorandum of Understanding, and the impact of our project EUREF-IP in the community involved in positioning, surveying and navigation.

It was also evident from the national reports that the activities developed at national level are more and more coherent with the EUREF work. This means that the recommendations and the guidelines established by our Sub-commission are becoming a '*de facto*' standard, without a need for formal laws or imposed rules. The ExGG, who establishes the link between EUREF and EuroGeographics, is of course being determinant in this process.

Let me also mention the fact that a new country, Malta, attended the Symposium. However, we still miss some European countries, like Byelorussia and Russia. I take this opportunity to invite them again to join us in our effort to cover all Europe with uniform reference systems and frames for geo-referencing. This is a task that supersedes the national borders, wherever they are.

Again, I would like to remind you two coming events, the GRF2006 Symposium and the AFREF Workshop, where the persons involved in the EUREF activities can play a major role, and ask you to contribute with all the possible means.

Another important remark is related to the oral and poster presentations made in this Symposium. I kindly ask the authors to please send the texts to our Secretary until the end of July. The publication of the proceedings depends on your cooperation, and if it takes too much time to publish them they considerably lose their usefulness.

On behalf of EUREF, I want to thank all of you who attended the symposium, especially the authors of oral presentations and posters, the chairpersons and the members of the resolutions' committee.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee and all the persons involved in the organization of this Symposium. They did their best to provide us a good environment for our work and a pleasant stay in this beautiful city of Riga.

Thank you all for coming and participating. See you next year in London.