EDITORIAL

A major step in the evolution of EMSC has occurred on December 13, 1993, with the adoption of the new statutes by the Extraordinary Assembly. May I insist on the main changes:

- **Location of EMSC** in the Paris region, within the premises of LDG, taking advantage of an efficient and well-trained seismological team and of the facilities generously offered to us. As of the end of 1994, EMSC offices will be located in the brand new open building at LDG.
- **Distribution of the principal EMSC tasks to so-called key nodal members.** Presently IGN (Madrid), ING (Rome) and LDG (Paris), cooperating for the rapid determination of epicentres, GFZ (Potsdam) executing the routine determination (earthquake source parameters) and CGDS (Moscow) for maintaining the strong motion data base.
- **External relations and dissemination of information** are carried out by a Coordination Bureau, composed of the President, first Vice-President and Secretary General.

This new structure relies directly on the activity of the key nodal members, cooperating through extensive data exchange and prefiguring what could be in the future a network of seismological centers throughout Europe and the Mediterranean area. The recent increase in EMSC members shows the interest of the scientific community for this new set up. Presently, 16 countries are represented within EMSC bodies.

I also wanted to inform you that the format of the Newsletter will be changing in 1994. The different key nodal members will present their activities and their specific contribution to EMSC and more emphasis will be given to seismological actuality.

Now is the time for the Season's Greetings. I wish that EMSC could contribute to better fulfill some of your professional needs and I wish you success in your own activities.

C. Weber
EMSC Executive Council

C. WEBER, President (elected), France
C. BROWITT, Vice-President (elected), Great Britain
G. BOCK, Vice-President GFZ, Germany
Y. CARISTAN, Vice-President LDG, France
A. GVISHIANI, Vice-President CGDS and Elected Member, Russia
J. MEZCUA, Vice-President IGN, Spain
G. SMRIGLIO, Vice-President ING, Italy
M. BAER, Elected Member, Switzerland
A. HOFSTETTER, Secretary General (until 30/06/94), Israel
B. FEIGNIER, Secretary General Designate, France

EMSC Members

Following the Extraordinary Assembly, the list of the EMSC members consists of:

Active members:

Observatoire Royal de Belgique, Belgium
Institute of Seismology, Finland
Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers, France
Bureau de Recherches Géol. et Minières, France
Forschungskollegium Phys. Erdkörpers, Germany
British Geological Survey, Great Britain
National Observatory of Athens, Greece
University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Institute for Petrol. Res. and Geophys., Israel
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
Storia Geofisica Ambientale srl, Italy
Osservatorio Geofisico Sperimentale, Italy
Centre National de la Recherche, Marocco
Inst. Nac. de Meteorologia e Geofisica, Portugal
Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal
Seismoloski Zavod Slovenije, Slovenia
Schweizerischer Erdbebendienst, Switzerland
Royal Netherlands Meteo. Inst., The Netherlands
Earthquake Research Institute, Turkey

Key Nodal Members:

Lab. de Détectio et de Géophysique, France
GeoForschungZentrum, Germany
Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica, Italy
Center of Geophys. Computer Data Studies, Russia
Instituto Geografico Nacional, Spain

Members by right:

European Seismological Commission (ESC)
ORFEUS Data Centre

Rapid Determination of Epicentres

The task of Rapid Determination of Epicentres consists of locating large earthquakes (M > 5.5 for Europe) in a short amount of time (approximately an hour) and disseminating this information to the users. It will now be shared by 3 seismological centres which all have a team of seismologists on duty 24h a day: LDG (Paris), ING (Rome) and IGN (Madrid). The software developed by J.F. Guéguen for this purpose has already been installed at LDG and ING and will be implemented at IGN soon. At the present time, data sent by contributors via e-mail are being duplicated, so that LDG and ING data sets remain identical. However, with IGN joining, and the possibility of other centres coming along in the future, various schemes are being discussed to avoid massive duplication of data and yet take full advantage of this new wealth. Furthermore, in case of uncertainty in the source location result, all 3 centres can use the data from their own national networks to manually check the automated solutions. In case of an alert, the final location is communicated to the Coordination Bureau for dissemination to the EMSC members, data contributors and, if need be, the Council of Europe. One of the main advantages of this new system should be to prevent EMSC from local failures in the communication system, since it can rely equally on the 3 independent centres for providing the necessary information.

On December 16, 1993, a dissemination test was conducted by EMSC. Its goal was to assess the most appropriate way (e-mail, fax, telex, X25) to communicate with the users of the Rapid Determination of Epicentres. If you have not received the test, please contact us at the address indicated at the bottom of this page.

Finally, the Data Request Manager (DRM) system has been kept identical to the one used by EMSC in Strasbourg. It can be reached from your computer by typing:
telnet 193.48.8.193
user: emscdrm
password: emscguest

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