

CSEM-EMSC NEWSLETTER

N° 1

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Editorial

The new team elected by the EMSC Assembly in Vienna has formally taken over from Jan. 1, 1992. A Bureau meeting, held on Dec. 3, 1991 under the presidency of **H. Aichele** specified the transition approach. Administrative difficulties have prevented the new Secretary General from being permanently present in Strasbourg before mid-March. At present, **A. Hofstetter** has taken over the management of the day to day EMSC operations.

I would like particularly to thank **H. Aichele**, the past President, and **J. Bonnin**, the previous Secretary General, for the high quality of their work. They have contributed considerably for making the EMSC an institution at the service of the European and Mediterranean seismological communities.

I have begun to work on four major projects for which I wish to gather the opinion of the EMSC members during our next Prague Assembly.

1. Communication with the members

- I think you will welcome the initiative of this newsletter. It is aimed at giving quick information on the current developments of the EMSC, and is opened to those members who wish to use it as a way of communication.

2. Evolution of rapid determination procedures

- Initiatives are proposed, following the guidelines set out below.

3. Consolidation of the database

- Following the advice which will be given by a scientific task group, I wish to ensure the development of the database prototype already carried out. This corresponds to a need clearly expressed by our community.

4. Establishment of formal links with ORFEUS

- Contact has already been made with the President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of ORFEUS to implement the resolutions adopted in Vienna.

The EMSC will evolve as you would like, thanks in particular to the assistance and the means provided by the host country and institution, specifically **R. Schlich**, the EOPG Director, and **M. Cara**, the EOPG Seismo. Lab. Director.

Christian Weber

New officers

C. Weber, the President of the EMSC, is the head of the "Délégation des risques majeurs"

(Office for prevention of major disasters), French Ministry of Environment, Paris, and Counsellor of the Director of the French Geological Survey, BRGM, Orléans. BRGM is an EMSC member since 1984.

Paris

Orléans

Phone: (33) 1 40 81 32 00

(33) 38 64 34 24

Fax: (33) 1 40 81 33 27

(33) 38 64 39 90

Mail : EMSC , Strasbourg.

A. Hofstetter, the Secretary General of the EMSC, received his Ph.D. in 1986 at the Univ. of Washington, Seattle, USA. Since then he was a researcher at the Institute for Petroleum Research and Geophysics, Israel, and actively studying the seismicity of the Dead Sea fault and the Eastern Mediterranean region. During 1988-1991 he was also appointed as a guest lecturer in seismology at the Tel-Aviv Univ. and the Hebrew Univ., Jerusalem.

EMSC Assembly meeting

An EMSC Assembly meeting is planned on the occasion of the European Seismological Commission (ESC) meeting in Prague during the beginning of Sept., 1992. Announcements of date, location and agenda will be sent to all members during June, 1992.

EMSC database - MEDEA

EMSC has developed in the past few years an earthquake database, called "MEDEA", under a contract (as a database prototype for 3 years starting Aug. 1988) with the CEC. Careful management of the funds has allowed, with the permission of the CEC, to continue this development during 1992. The database is easy to access and to use for any interested scientists or organization, providing reliably and accurately parametric data computed by various sources, and is now in an advanced stage (over 375 000 epicenters). We should acknowledge the dedicated work of the founders and the followers: **J. Bonnin**, **C. André**, **J. Morel** and **J. Béquignon**, in establishing and building this database. The latter has left the EMSC, but the others will remain active in the development of the database. Seismicity maps have been developed by **Y. Legros**. The MEDEA can be approached by Telnet (130.79.50.21 or 130.84.4.105); X25 (0208067000238); phone (+33-88286020); Videotex (in France 3613 then 167000238, other countries +33-36431313 then 167000238); telex (667000F then 167000238); to submit a job from an EARN/BITNET node. As a guest userid, enter : "U79102/MEDEA NONOTICE". If you did not get the User's Manual

and MEDEA's newsletter "The Gazette" numbers 1 to 3, and/or if you want to get your own account on the database (so MEDEA answers your requests at your E-mail address), or if you meet any problem while using MEDEA, send a message to EMSC. The MEDEA database is still tested and your suggestions and comments are most valuable. Feel free to ask for data of particular interest in case there is a need.

Rapid determination of epicenters

Starting Oct. 1989, the rapid determination of epicenters has been mainly done by EOPG in Strasbourg, under a contract with the EMSC and the help of **J.-F. Guéguen**. During the last years an obvious need for a change has appeared, in which more centers and especially several key stations in the European-Mediterranean region will be involved. A new format, in which a series of centers will cooperate in data gathering and rapid determination of epicenters, is planned, to be approved by the EMSC Assembly meeting in Prague. Preliminary discussions with the different centers will start before the EMSC Assembly meeting.

During January, 1992, a proposal, which included the EMSC, ORFEUS in Utrecht, EOPG in Strasbourg, IGN in Madrid, Univ. of Lisbon in Portugal, Univ. of Thessaloniki in Greece, IGGTS in Trieste and IGL-CNR in Milan, was submitted to the EC, which was written under unfavourable conditions and time pressure. The proposal intends to improve the rapid determination of epicenters and data transfer between data centers, installation of several broad band stations for a better coverage of European countries in order to get a more accurate magnitude determination, and the improvement of the MEDEA database in its planned second phase.

Exchange of data and electronic mail

In order to facilitate our work and to include more station observations, we would like to get more arrival times in a digital form (by telex or a variety of electronic mail options, preferably not in paper bulletins). The arrival times are used for our data association procedure, and to determine the epicenters, to be computed every month, taken care by **A. Pérès** and **Y. Slamani**. For this part of our work, we do not need the final bulletin, but we need the arrival times (or even part of them), with a delay of less than one month. All these arrival times are also sent to NEIC, taken care by **M. Walter**. If you wish to receive data from EMSC (i.e., arrival times used to compute epicenters for a given zone, or the monthly list of epicenters) through e-mail, please let us know. Our Internet address: hermes@furax.u-strasbg.fr (if you can, please use it rather than the BITNET address). Our EARN/BITNET address: U79101@FRCCSC21.BITNET. Our P.S.I. address: PSI%0208067001662::hermes (the first "0" is for an international code, and it may be different in your country); in France the P.S.I. address: PSI%167001662::hermes.

Activity related to the Council of Europe

The activity related to the Council of Europe is channelled in two ways:

- In case of an earthquake, whose magnitude is more than or equal to 6, the EMSC informs immediately the European Warning System of the Council of Europe of the location of the event and its magnitude, taken care by **J.-F. Guéguen** and **A. Hofstetter**.

- **J. Bonnin**, the past Secretary General of the EMSC, has started to take over the charge of international cooperation in the domains related to earthquake hazard, within the framework of the Open Partial Agreement on major disasters of the Council of Europe.

Announcements and miscellaneous

Our colleague Dr. V. J. de Sousa Moreira, Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia e Geofísica, Rua C - Aeroporto, P-1700, Lisboa, Portugal, has started a study of the focal mechanisms of the following earthquakes:

- 11/06/1988 at 21:14:20.0
37.81° N, 8.17° W, h = 10 km Mag = 3.7
- 23 /09/1989 at 20:03:27.8
38.36° N, 8.53° W, h = 77 k Mag = 4.1
- 02/11/1989 at 06:00:20.8
36.39° N, 9.06° W, h = 10G Mag = 4.4
- 18/02/1990 at 19:03:36.8
39.18° N, 8.96° W, h = 10G Mag = 3.6
- 08/03/1990 at 02:39:09.2
42.91° N, 11.41° W, h = 10G Mag = 3.5
- 10/05/1990 at 19:49:02.2
40.73° N, 9.54° W, h = 10G Mag = 3.5
- 23/02/1991 at 15:28:26.9
37.19° N, 8.22° W, h = 10G Mag = 3.5

Please be so kind as to check your records and provide him (and a copy to EMSC) with the arrival times, onset quality (I/E) and direction (C/D) of the first movement of the P-waves for these events, read on the vertical components of your station(s).

CSEM-EMSC

5, rue René Descartes
67084 STRASBOURG Cedex, France

phone: +33-88416381
fax: +33-88600401
telex: 890826F
e-mail: hermes@furax.u-strasbg.fr
P.S.I.: PSI%0208067001662::hermes