

Our ref: DG/21-156
Date: 6 September 2021

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For the attention of Dr Karen M. St. Germain
Chair, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
Director, Earth Science Division
Science Mission Directorate
NASA Headquarters
300 Hidden Figures Way, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20546
U.S.A.

Dear Dr Karen M. St. Germain,

I am honoured to write to you to seek membership of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in CEOS as an Associate Member.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service, producing global numerical weather predictions and other data for our Member and Co-operating States and the broader community. The Centre has one of the largest supercomputer facilities and meteorological data archives in the world. Other strategic activities include delivering advanced training and assisting the WMO in implementing its programmes.

We operate two services from the EU's Copernicus Earth observation programme, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). We also contribute to the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS). One of the flagships ECMWF will be responsible for in the years to come is the development of a CO₂ anthropogenic emissions Monitoring and Verification System infrastructure, in support of the Paris Agreement.

More generally, and as described in its recent 10-year strategy, ECMWF is continuing to heavily invest in an Earth system approach, with a particular focus on an aggressive and innovative exploitation and assimilation of satellite observations in our model.

ECMWF works very closely with space agencies around the world to access the data that is critical to the quality of our predictions, and more importantly to define and inform requirements for future missions in the area of weather, atmospheric composition and climate applications. A good example are the partnerships we have with EUMETSAT and ESA at European level, but our collaborative approach goes much further and we also work closely with NOAA, NASA, CMA, KMA and JMA on various research and operational matters.

Several of our staff are already contributing to CEOS activities (CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate, CEOS virtual constellation, and more recently the CEOS GST task team), and I believe that having a more formal and direct role in CEOS as an associate partner would tighten beneficially the links between ECMWF and this very important community.

I look forward to receiving a positive response from the CEOS Secretariat. If ECMWF is successful in becoming a CEOS Associate Member Agency, I nominate myself as Principal Representative, and Ms Ruth Brooker as point of contact.

Yours sincerely



Dr Florence Rabier
Director-General

Copy:

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