

## Minutes of the SEQS business meeting 30 September 2009, Orce, Spain

### Agenda

1. Transforming the name of SEQS
2. The SEQS-2010 meeting
3. SEQS memberships

### 1. Transforming the name of SEQS

Following the INQUA policy that Subcommissions are no longer official groups, Brad Pillans has asked Mauro Coltorti to change the name of SEQS (Subcommission on European Quaternary Stratigraphy) into International Focus Group of European Quaternary Stratigraphy. The question is related to the changes of INQUA's structures that have been set in since the INQUA congresses of Durban (SA, 1999), Reno (USA, 2003) and is discussed again in Cairns (AUS, 2007).

Already from the start of these discussions it has been acknowledged that SEQS always was and still is a very well-functioning group within INQUA and that despite the change to project-based focus groups SEQS can continue its activities in the way it always did. Formally is SEQS a group that acts under the umbrella of SACCOM.

The attendees of the business meeting in Orce unanimously wish to keep the abbreviation SEQS alive. The main reasons mentioned are:

- The SEQS group is the most stable group of INQUA over the last 30 years and has proven to function efficiently.
- SEQS has produced a great number of special issues that publishes the results of many meetings.
- SEQS has strengthened the contacts between Eastern and Western European scientists during the last decades.
- EUROMAM, EQMAL, and the circum-Alpine working Group are three groups that are initiated by SEQS-members and act under the auspices of SEQS.
- We have the right to continue our activities in the way we did and we like to do that under the unchanged name of SEQS.

A comprising alternative is found in the following proposal: SEQS is the **Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy**.

(comment WimW: we have forgotten to discuss Phil Gibbard's suggestion to change the name in EQS (**European Quaternary Stratigraphy group**). In earlier email-correspondences several members of SEQS have said that this could be a reasonable alternative)

### 2. The SEQS-2010 meeting.

Alexej Tesakov and Vadim Titov have offered to organise the 2010-meeting in Rostov on Don. The preliminary title will be ***Quaternary Stratigraphy and Paleontology of Southern Russia in the Context of Transregional Correlation and Global Changes***.

The conference will be co-organized by the Southern Scientific Centre (Rostov-on-Don) and Geological Institute (Moscow), the Russian Academy of Sciences and is devoted to the memory of Dr. Andrey Dodonov, the well-known Quaternary geologist who put forward the idea of this meeting.

Time of venue will be the very end of June or the beginning of July. The program consists of 2 days lectures (in Rostov on Don) and 2 days of excursions during which exposures on the margins of the sea of Azov will be demonstrated.

The eastern part of the Sea of Azov is one of the best-known areas for the Quaternary geology in Russia. Rostov-on-Don is the major regional center situated in the mouth of the magnificent Don River. The Don basin and Sea of Azov area have many key sections of the Upper Pliocene and Quaternary yielding abundant palaeontological data, including large and

small mammal faunas, mollusks, palynology, etc. Subaqueous and subaerial faciès of the Quaternary sediments are exposed along the Don Valley and the Azovian seashore. Loess-palaeosol records contribute to the palaeoclimatic data for the Middle and Late Pleistocene.

The attendees of the business meeting fully agree with this proposal. Tesakov and Titov will provide a first circular and announcement of the meeting as soon as possible. The announcement will be placed on the SEQS-website and the organisers will also open a special website for the SEQS-2010 meeting.

Specific attention is needed on the transport possibilities to Rostov on Don. There are some direct charter flights from a number of western European airports and there is also a possibility to travel via Moscow and take or a domestic flight in Russia or a night train. The organisers are asked to show the various options as soon as possible on the website of the meeting.

### **SEQS memberships.**

Concerning the list of full members of SEQS the president proposes to strengthen this group by inviting more people. In fact the membership is open for everyone who wants to be involved in the activities of SEQS. Full members meet at the business meetings that are held during each annual SEQS-meeting. They are entitled to vote on all matters that SEQS has to decide, promote SEQS in their own country and working environment and are invited to come out with initiatives and ideas to the SEQS-board.

In order to strengthen the present group of full members the attendees invite Alexej Tesakov, Vadim Titov, Jean-Philip Brugal, and Maria Rita Palombo to become a full member of SEQS.

Furthermore it is discussed that the members of SEQS like to intensify the cooperation with EUROMAM. Therefore EUROMAM will be officially invited to join the 2010-meeting on the Sea of Azov which takes place in Rostov on Don. The next meeting of EUROMAM will be held in Greece but is postponed until 2012 and we will see if there are possibilities to combine it with an SEQS-meeting. Anyhow, future announcements will be distributed also via the SEQS mailing lists. The board of EUROMAM consists of Maria Rita Palombo, Jean Philippe Brugal and Thijs van Kolfschoten.

## Updated list of SEQS full members, 30 September 2009, Orce, Spain.

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