	FEDERATION EUROPENNE DES GEOLOGUES **EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS** **FEDERACION EUROPEA DE GEOLOGOS**	Number: C1 Issue: Ver 5 Date: June 2010
	REGULATIONS	Approval Authority
	Code of Ethics	COUNCIL

1 OBJECTIVE

To ensure that the Full Members, Associate Members, Observer Members and all individual European Geologists are informed of the Code of Ethics established by the European Federation of Geologists to prescribe acceptable behaviour of the individual members and European Geologists.

2 SCOPE

This Regulation covers the definition of the Code of Ethics, provides guidance on its contents and explains the actions that the EFG may take if individual members or European Geologists breach the Code.

3 THE CODE

3.1 The Code of Ethics is Annex A to this Regulation. Full Members, Associate Members, Observer Members or European Geologists may propose changes to the Code of Ethics formally in writing to the Secretary General at any time and these shall be considered by Council.

3.2 The Code of Ethics shall be reviewed by the Registration Authority to ensure that it remains relevant and the Registration Authority may propose amendments to the Code.

3.3 Amendments to the Code of Ethics shall be approved by Council through amendments to this Regulation.

3.4 National Associations (Full Members), Associate Members and Observer Members that have adopted their own Code of Ethics may require their individual members to follow that code in place of the EFG Code of Ethics provided that Council of EFG accept that the Member's Code of Ethics in its scope and standards is not inferior to the EFG Code of Ethics.

4 GUIDANCE ON THE CODE

4.1 The Code applies to Full Members, Associate Members, Observer Members and all individual European Geologists.

4.2 Any individual European Geologist who provides advice to others, whether to clients and employers in a professional capacity, through membership of committees or to the general public directly or via the media is required, under the Code of Ethics, to restrict such advice to their own areas of expertise. For guidance, the EFG considers that an individual's areas of expertise are likely to be characterised by some or all of the following:

- A recognised degree or equivalent qualification in the specialist area;
- A period of relevant experience in the specialist area that will most probably have led to the individual having being awarded the title of European Geologist;
- A programme of Continuing Professional Development with specific activities related to the individual's areas of expertise.

4.3 The Board shall ensure that the website includes the Code of Ethics and provides a procedure for submission of complaints or notification of breaches of the code.

4.4 If evidence becomes available to the EFG that there has been a breach of the Code, the evidence shall be examined in accordance with the procedures defined by Regulations. Council may remove a Full Member, Associate Member or Observer Member from the EFG for a serious breach of the Code of Ethics, for example, for failure to enforce the Code of Ethics within its membership. Council may remove the title of European Geologist from an individual for a serious breach of the Code of Ethics.

Annex A

Code of Ethics

Preamble

Geology is a science that deals with the composition, structure, resources, history and evolution of the Earth and the application of this science. The practice of geology is a profession for those who possess the necessary qualifications and/or professional experience recognised by their appropriate national body or under the law, and whose living comes essentially from that work.

General Principles

1. All geologists following this Code must pay regard to their professional conduct to the standards and to the spirit of the following clauses, so as not to harm the dignity of the profession.
2. The privilege of exercising the profession of geology demands the highest standards of integrity, morality, professional conscience and moral responsibility.
3. The geologist is responsible for the impression he/she gives of the profession in the opinion of those around him/her and of the public at large.
4. The geologist is obliged to maintain professional secrecy, and to protect third parties.

Relations with other Geologists

5. The rules of loyalty and honesty should control the actions of the geologist towards his/her colleagues, his employers and to third parties with whom he/she is in contact. In particular, he/she is required not to divulge information liable to discredit another colleague.
6. The geologist must not put his/her name to anything that is untrue, nor make agreements that prejudice his/her client's position.

Relations with Clients

7. The geologist must always inform his/her client of the true limitations of practical results that might be obtained from a given professional assistance, especially if it implies increased costs for the client.
8. The geologist must avoid any sort of negligence in the practice of his/her profession, especially when this gives rise to risks or of material or moral damage for his/her client of for the environment.
9. The geologist must not alter, or deny the existence of, facts or accepted technical or scientific truths which could thereby favour a client or mislead the public.
10. The geologist must not promise or broadcast specific professional advice that cannot be supported by a genuine, objective possibility, nor seek to publicise professional qualifications that he/she does not actually hold with the aim of keeping his client from going to other professional colleagues.

10.1 The geologist must refer, or advise reference, to the help of other specialists whenever the interests of his/her employer or client are thereby better served. He/she must, in his/her conclusions, distinguish between his/her own work and that of his/her colleagues.

10.2 If, after having given his/her advice, a geologist becomes aware that it will not be entirely followed, he/she should, regardless of his/her own position, inform the relevant person of the foreseen risks.

11. The geologist should not take on the functions of an expert in fields of interest other than his/her own to one of his/her regular clients or one for whom he/she has already given advice.