

FROM OBSERVER TO PAST PRESIDENT

Memories from EFG 1988 – 2004

Gunnar Hultquist, Sweden

We were two geologists from Sweden who went to Lisbon to visit the EFG to find out what kind of organisation EFG was. We were invited as observers to attend the Council Meeting in November 1988. Arriving to the meeting place we were not allowed to be present in the meeting room for the first two hours because the Council was discussing which association should be representing Italy.

Afterwards I understood that it was a matter of interpretation of the statutes. Each country had one vote in the Council. Many countries had two delegates present. The problem was that Italy had two delegates, each of them representing different organisations. Who had the right to the vote for Italy? The discussion of the Statutes has been on the agenda for several years. Not only in the item mentioned above.

As vice President, elected in 1991, I worked closely with Richard Fox for the network with Euro MP's. Especially within the environmental sector and items for the mutual recognition of the title EurGeol. The EFG dossier "Environment and Geology – Ground Water Pollution" was successfully presented to the European Parliament in November 1992.

My presidency started with the Council Meeting in Helsinki, June 1993. To carry out the work within EFG the Council decided to set up working groups for items of importance, which should make it possible for the delegates to work effectively from one council meeting to the next. The work was organized in three groups: Environment and Geology, Engineering Geology and Mineral Resources.

One of the main objectives for EFG was to create the EurGeol title and during the year 1993 the work was finalised and I could hand over the first parchment to Eva Paproth, which entitled her to use the title "European Geologist".

In 1993 the Council also considered it necessary to form a network with other professional bodies i.e. FEANI, ECBA and FOREGS. I was invited to FEANI Annual Meeting in Lausanne, which gave EFG good contacts for the network we needed. In connection with the Council Meeting in Dublin in 1995 a joint Board Meeting was arranged for EFG and FOREGS, there EFG and FOREGS signed an agreement concerning cooperation about items of mutual interest. At the same weekend I had the pleasure of handing over the parchment for EurGeol to Peadar MacArdle. This was the first time a Director of a Geological Survey was awarded the Title of European Geologist.



Gunnar Hultquist

During 1994 a "Strategic Plan" was presented to the Council which led to long and constructive discussions as to which way the EFG could reach its aims. The result of those discussions became an "Activity Programme" for the two main aims of EFG: To affirm the Professional Identity and To be a single voice for geologists.

During my first years in EFG all information about member associations and EFG's activities was presented in a newsletter named "EuroGeoPages". The need of a channel for information to the world outside EFG became stronger and stronger and it was a big step forward when the Federation could publish the first issue of the European Geologist Magazine in 1995. Thank You, Manuel and ICOG!

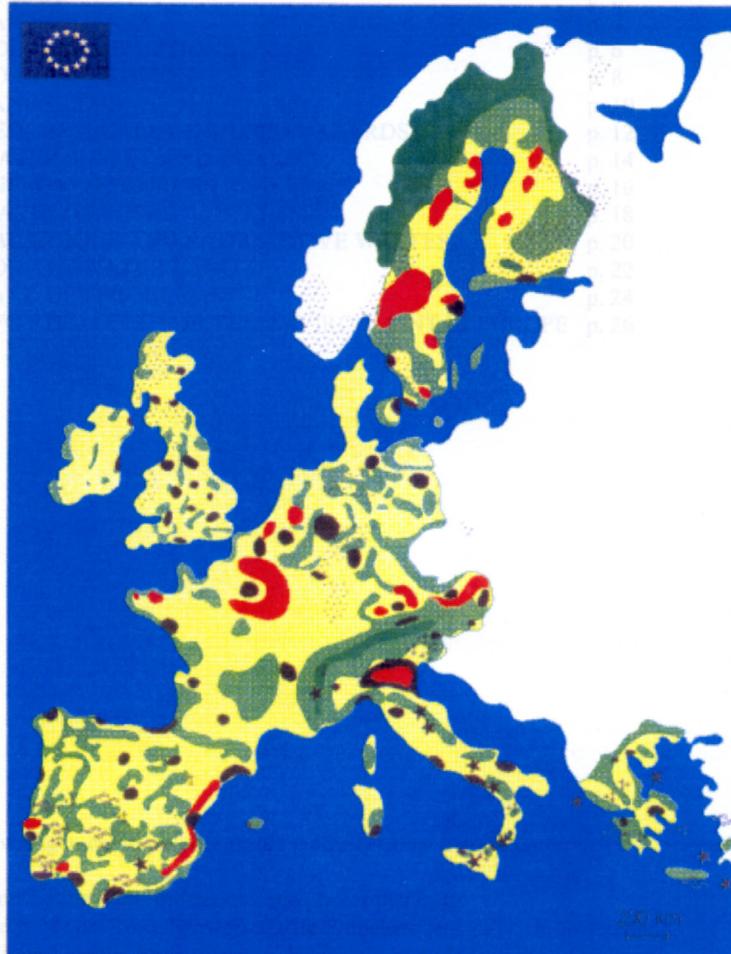
My Presidential mandate ended in June 1996 and Manuel took over, and I became past President. I have been one of the Swedish delegates since then. Looking back at the years in the EFG Council I can say that a lot of the work in EFG has really improved. I think EFG Council will have to live with discussions about

regulations and long discussions about calculation of the fees, because the world round EFG is not standing still. The EFG has put forward its position in relations with EU politicians and officers in the Commission and this will also lead to a larger awareness of geologists work and knowledge by the general public.

GEOLOGY AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPE

This is a summary and updating of a dossier with the same title prepared by the EFG Environmental Working Group. The dossier was approved by the EFG Council in June 1996.

This edition is edited by Gunnar Hultquist, SN/Sweden.



Main nature areas ■ Including almost wild ■ Rural areas ■ Urban pressures ●
 Pressures due to intensive agriculture or forestry ● Soil erosion ★ High seismicity ★
 Water resource problem ☞ Acid rain ☁

A map showing some other major environmental problems in the E.U. Member Countries and Switzerland. Selected aspects of spatial development perspective are also shown (modified from the E.U. Committee on Spatial Development, 1995)

The printing of this brochure is sponsored by the Swedish Association of Scientists/SN

Gunnar Hultquist edited and produced this important EFG brochure