

To whom it may concern,

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is one of the six thematic services of the Copernicus programme. Its main mission is to support adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by operationally providing consistent and authoritative information about past, present and future climate. C3S offers free and open access to climate data and tools based on the best available science. In terms of observations, the programme adopted the concept of essential climate variables developed by GCOS. The management of C3S has been entrusted by the European Commission to the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Despite its importance in controlling climate variability and change, the ocean continues to be relatively under sampled. In that sense, improving our understanding of the climate and, consequently, our ability to model its changes, requires an improvement of our ocean-observing capabilities. Having an accurate description of the state of the global ocean at any given time plays a pivotal role in initialising seasonal and decadal predictions as well as short term weather forecasts. Hence, accurate ocean observations are crucial not only for climate forecasts and reanalysis, but also for shorter timescales.

Few initiatives have been as successful as the Argo programme at improving our understanding of the ocean. In order to strengthen the European climate services, the European contribution to the Argo programme, Euro-Argo, needs to be adequately funded. We at ECMWF are fully supportive of the European contribution to the Argo Programme and look forward to maintaining and expanding the close collaboration we already have with Euro-Argo ERIC, the infrastructure coordinating this contribution.

In particular, ECMWF plans to regularly exchange with Euro-Argo ERIC in order to:

- Provide recommendations on the quality and availability of Euro-Argo products and on future needs in terms of observations (spatial and temporal coverage) in order to enhance the range and quality of operational products and services offered by ECMWF for all timescales.
- Develop joint advocacy activities in order to secure sustainable and consolidated funding for the European contribution to the Argo programme.

In the long term, regular exchanges between key representatives of Euro-Argo ERIC and ECMWF will contribute to optimizing the value chain from in situ observations to end users' services, through improved ECMWF and C3S products.

With my kindest regards,

Carlo Buontempo,
Director, Copernicus Climate Change Service

ECMWF Shinfield Park, Reading RG2 9AX, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 118 949 9000 | Fax: +44 (0) 118 986 9450 |

Email: carlo.buontempo@ecmwf.int climate.copernicus.eu | copernicus.eu | ecmwf.int

