

Report Meeting Subcommittee Neogene and Paleogene Stratigraphy 27/10/2017

Present: Piet Laga, Yaana Bruneel, Rik Houthuys, Hervé Van Baelen, Noël Vandenberghe, Etienne Steurbaut, Stijn Goolaerts, Rieko Adriaens, Peter Stassen, Jasper Verhaegen, Michiel Duser, Johan Matthijs, Stephen Louwye, Katrien De Nil

Excused: Marco Schiltz, Johan Yans, Marleen De Ceukelaire, Thierry Smith

NCS – Chronostratigraphic chart <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/chronostratigraphy>

ICS offers now the possibility to download from their website translations of the English ICS chart. A Flemish version of the chart has been compiled by the Flemish speaking members of the NCS. In Flanders we have a tradition of consequently translating the English termination -ian and -an endings into respectively -iaan and -aan. There has been preceding communication about this issue with TNO-Geologische Dienst Nederland and ICS.

The next meeting of NCS is scheduled for November 21, 2017.

Ieper Group

The hardcopy of the flyer has been distributed to interested parties. Everybody agrees that the format, content and lay-out is practical. Printing of the flyer was handled by VPO for 400 euro, excl. VAT. Similar flyers could be made for other stratigraphic groups. Noël Vandenberghe will inform Laurent Wouters about the possibility to compile a comparable flyer of the Rupel Group. It is still a point of discussion whether an informative meeting should be organized for the targeted users, possibly in combination with another event.

Brussels Formation

Rik Houthuys, Noël Vandenberghe and Johan Matthijs prepared a document regarding the Brussels Formation, including a proposal for 3 members, mainly based on grain size. Carbonate content and glauconite are not considered as a criterium for distinction. The text was discussed by the members of the subcommission, and it is agreed that it concerns a document essentially for practical use. More undisturbed (core) samples are necessary for future tuning of the text. An alternative terminology for 'member' is required, e.g. layer package, unit,... The cause for the decalcification, weathering or after sedimentation, is an additional factor for subdivision of the Diegem member. All remarks, including these given during the meeting, should be communicated before 31/01/2018 to the authors. The text and figures will be added to the website as a discussion text:

<https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/paleogene-neogene/brussels-formation-27102017>.

Beselare and Maaseik Member

Johan Matthijs presents an argumentation based on lithology and nannoplankton biostratigraphy why the Maaseik Member belongs to the Heers Formations and not to the Hannut Formation. To the north, the Maaseik Member becomes more clayey, namely in the distal part of the basin. The Beselare Member disappears from the northwest into a northeastern direction. The suggestion is made to compare the drill holes Mol and Alken. Peter Stassen illustrates the geophysical measurements of the Overbroek section in April 2017. No clear signal could be detected, but the argumentation of Johan Matthijs is acceptable. Johan Matthijs will first finish the publication and afterwards a text for a proposal will be distilled. In the meantime, the discussion text remains available on the website. <http://ncs.naturalsciences.be/paleogene-neogene/discussion-text-web-20170510>

Neogene 2020

Noël Vandenberghe explains the structure of the document. A meeting dealing with the Kasterlee Formation is scheduled at the end of November. Noël Vandenberghe urges the other responsible authors to start working on the different chapters.

The H30 project has highlighted some difficulties in the Belgian Neogene lithostratigraphy. Based on published data and reports, the relevant information can be incorporated where needed in the publication on the Belgian Neogene. The Belgian Neogene publication should be based on information from the type area, but a discussion in a regional context is necessary. Collaboration by VITO geologists in the preparation of the publication is desired.

A meeting will be planned in April 2018 to discuss the content of the different chapters. A special issue of *Geologica Belgica* appears the most suited publication format. The chairman will contact Annick Anciau whether a special issue of *Geologica Belgica* is a possibility.

Relict Stones in Limburg

Roland Dreesen presents four informal groups of relict stones of Cenozoic age in Limburg, occurring *in situ* and *ex situ*. Their origin is often difficult to assess since they differ significantly from the outcropping formation, as they are relicts resulting from weathering of a younger formation. So far they do not figure on the geological maps. Roland Dreesen stresses the need for a specific symbol representing these relict stones. The relict stones are part of the geological heritage and as such are witnesses of past geological processes. The stones are often observed in temporary outcrops. DOV is able and willing to support the proposal by Roland Dreesen. A meeting in spring 2018 will be planned to investigate the inventory of the relict stone and to envisage the coupling of the inventory with the database.

Varia:

- PaleoTime: 12/10 Wijgmaal
 - Marleen De Ceukelaire notified the subcommission that she cannot continue as an active member given her time consuming work at the geological survey. The subcommission appreciated her enthusiastic collaboration and her dedication to the Belgian lithostratigraphy during many years. The subcommission wishes to thank her for her efforts.
 - Kris Welkenhuysen from the GSB will join the subcommission during next meeting and the subcommission welcomes the new member.
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| - A Doodle will be launched out for the next meeting in February 2018 |
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Stephen Louwye, chairman of the SC-PN

Katrien De Nil, secretary of the SC-PN