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National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium

NCS meeting report 08/06/2015

Meeting report: National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium

GSB-RBINS, 08/06/2015

Start : 10h05 – End : 12h50

Present (11)

N.Vandenberghe (P), M. De Ceukelaire (S and Webmaster), E. Goemaere (S), Isabelle Belanger, Frieda Bogemans, Marie Coen-Aubert, Vanessa Heyvaert, Katrien De Nil, Michiel Duser, Alain Herbosch, Stephen Louwye

Excused (2)

B. Mottequin, Jacques Verniers

1. Observation on the presence/absence of the members of the different subcommissions.

No representatives present of the subcommission Carboniferous (E. Poty & B. Delcambre) and of the Service Géologique de Wallonie (M. Laloux). They were also absent in the previous meeting and did not respond to earlier e-mail messages. E. Poty will be contacted by the chairman to request a more active involvement and E. Goemaere will contact B. Delcambre with a similar request.

1B. Approval of Report of last NCS written meeting (11-2014 <http://ncs/meeting-reports/report-2014-11#>) : no reactions received from the Carboniferous and Perm-Trias-Jura subcommissions.

Reactions on the report following the 'written procedure' meeting :

- NCS reports can be written in English and not necessarily in French and Dutch .
- Website : introductory texts are still missing for some subcommissions (e.g. Dinantian), ,also the list of subcommission members is in some cases missing or needing an update.
- On the written procedure: some subcommissions have insisted on having physical meetings , twice a year, and consider a written procedure meeting as an exceptional measure.

2. Subcommission activities.

2.1. Subcommission Lower Paleozoic

- Completed (litho-, bio-, chrono-) regarding Silurian and Ordovician.
- Goutteux member (lower member of the Brutia Formation)- in progress àneeds acceptance by the members of the subcommission.
- A discussion on the significance and use of the terms 'discussion', 'proposal', 'submitted' and 'adopted by' à the results of this discussion and a more explicitly written procedure text will be put on the website ; the board of the subcommissions is responsible for the correct application of the procedure.

Application of rules : the use of an own stratigraphic nomenclature by the mapping teams of the Carte Géologique de Wallonie has been discussed. It is apparently difficult to convince the mapping teams to try to follow the procedures outlined by the ncs.

E. Goemaere will repeat and explain the ncs position during the next mapping team meeting at the SGW/SPW of Monday 15th June 2015. It will be asked to M. Laloux to document the units newly described during the mapping ; it can then be evaluated how these descriptions and their nomenclature can be brought in line with the ncs procedure and eventually a separate category on

the website can be temporarily reserved for the new mapping derived units assuring that the units used on the maps can be found in the list of the ncs website .

2.2. Subcommission Devonian

The subcommission has not had a full meeting with all members.

The discussion between M. Coen and D. Lagrou about the formations in the Campine Basin by the latter have had a positive outcome. The proposed Heibaart formation has been withdrawn and M. Coen will propose to the subcommission members to accept the other new units proposed by David Lagrou and posted on the website under discussions and proposals on 30/04/2015.

M. Coen reminds the commission that the stratigraphic research during IGCP-596 will be presented during an international conference at the KBIN-IRSNB in September 2015 ; 75 participants have already be registered and the field visits will involve also the subcommission members.

2.3. Subcommission Carboniferous

No activities of the full subcommission have been reported and no information was received by the ncs secretary.

2.4. Subcommission Perm-Trias-Jura

No full subcommission meeting has taken place. I. Belanger informs the commission about the future discussions, probably during a field meeting, to rank the 'couche de Robelmont' (Hondelange Member) as a formal 'bed'.

Also the member list will be updated , allowing the constitution of an active group involved in the P-T-J.

2.5. Subcommission Cretaceous

No full subcommission meeting was held.

A discussion was held regarding the members of the Vert-Galand Formation(Nieuwkerke Noordhoek Member and Nieuwkerke De Seule Member), their lateral facies variability and the problematic correlation of units between the West Flanders and Hainaut provinces.

Actually 3 subdivisions are in existence along each other and it is suggested to make a discussion text and panel putting these three alongside each other and indicating the correlation levels that could be used to link the subdivisions. However some more discussion will be needed as the the subdivision tools between the different subdivisions are different (surface mapping, biostratigraphy, geophysical bore hole logging).

A discussion is held about the stratigraphic status and ranking of the 'altered clays with flint' on top of many Cretaceous deposits. On some maps they are formally mapped and will be described as a complement to the lithological units they have been altered from.

It is proposed to create on the website a new category of 'alteration units', at the same level of the subcommissions, in which all mapped units will be grouped and discussed ('argiles à silex', kaolins' saprolithes, red alterites in the Ardennes- 'chapeaux de fer' ...)

2.6 Subcommission Paleogene-Neogene

A meeting was held in August 2014 where several actions have been started up.

A new meeting is scheduled for 13th July and an open-science meeting in the second week of December 2015., dealing with subjects of purely stratigraphic nature but also with practical applications as the use of stratigraphic information in models for example.

Discussions on the website : no reactions so far on Inden, Brussels and Kiezeloöliet and therefore these units can be confirmed during the July meeting of the subcommission and submitted for final approval to ncs/ there are comments on the Ieper Group discussion text to be discussed during the July meeting of the subcommission. Texts are in preparation on the Diest Fm (Rieko Adriaens) and Voort (M. Duser and N. Vandenberghe).

The text on Stramproy will be taken of the website as this unit is Quaternary in age and will be dealt with by the appropriate subcommission in due time.

2.7. Subcommission Quaternary

Three working group meetings have been involved with Arenberg Fm , Meuse-Rhine Group , Weelde Fm.

One field trip has been organised to the Marke valley in the framework of the redefinition of the Arenberg Formation.

The Gent Fm as proposed on the ncs website will need limited modification.

3. Corrected Proposal text procedure for approval of new lithostratigraphic units or amendments (9 June 2015)

Difference in content between a Discussion and Proposal text

A **discussion** offers **alternative views or introduces new ideas** on a particular stratigraphic item and has as **objective the stimulation of discussion** on these ideas and receive feedback.

A **proposal** is a text with a **specific proposition to change or to add the description of a particular stratigraphic unit or propose a change of rank of change of grouping of units , compared to the description existing on the website** at the time of the introduction of the proposal.

Technically , **only proposals approved by the ncs can appear in the ncs website list of official lithostratigraphic units (for procedure see hereafter).**

The central role of the Subcommission

The **subcommissions** themselves, can take the initiative to start a **discussion** on the website and **subcommissions** can also post a **proposal on the website.**

However, **any person or group of persons** can **start a discussion** or **write a proposal** on a stratigraphic theme related to the objectives of the National Stratigraphic Commission on the ncs website. Importantly, **both discussion and proposal texts must be submitted to the relevant subcommission.** If the subcommission judges the **discussions or proposals** submitted reasonable contributions, its secretary will transmit the texts to the **webmaster** for their publication on the website **under the heading 'discussion and proposals' and clearly indicated whether the text is a discussion or a proposal.** The subcommissions are urged to keep an **open mind** on all submitted texts; decisions in the subcommissions to support the transmission of the texts to the website are taken preferably by consensus **within 3 months after the submission.** The chairman and the secretary of

the subcommission can decide to organise a written consultation of the subcommission rather than a physical meeting.

Texts should be submitted electronically (text .doc and figures .jpg 96 dpi). For discussions no particular format is required, for proposals the structure adopted in the *Geologica Belgica* 2001 volume on lithostratigraphy preferably should be followed .

Procedure for approving new or adapted lithostratigraphic units and introduction in the list of official units on the ncs website

On the website, it will clearly be indicated whether the text is a discussion or a proposal. Also it will be **indicated to whom the comments should be addressed and before which date. For discussion texts the time open for reactions can vary but for formal proposals the time open for reaction since publication on the website is 3 months.**

A **discussion text, after the period open for reactions**, is reexamined by the subcommission considering the received comments and reactions; the subcommission decides on further action such as the **transformation of the discussion text into a formal proposal, in the resubmission of a modified discussion text, in a withdrawal of the discussion from the site or in a prolongation of the present discussion text on the website.**

A **proposal text, after the period open for reactions**, can be adapted based on the received comments and reactions. The subcommission judges whether major changes, minor changes or no changes are needed. If major changes are needed, an adapted proposal text can be resubmitted by the subcommission (and follow again the procedure outlined above); if only minor or no changes are requested, the subcommission **informs the webmaster by delivering the eventually slightly modified text which will now be put on the website, obviously under the heading proposal, with indication 'to be approved at next ncs meeting'**. The proposal can be formally accepted by the ncs in its next upcoming meeting. **If accepted during this meeting the unit receives an official status and will be included in the website at the appropriate stratigraphic position.** If not accepted by ncs, the proposal is sent for adaptation to the subcommission.

4. Varia

4.1. How to make a reference to the website ?

The correct reference is :

Author name , year, name of the unit , adress of the website

It is important that our procedure for allowing a text to the website needs the quality of a 'review procedure' in common journal papers ; authors can refer to the procedure outlined on the website and make this known in their CV . It is up to evaluators in commissions to consider these contributions as acceptable contributions and eventually even as equivalent to peer reviewed papers but obviously the quality of our website and the quality of the subcommissions will play a substantial role to achieve this status.

4.2. Miscellanea Geologica

The ncs should have a permanent section in the Miscellanea. All actual discussions and proposals on the site should be reported each month alongside with the general information and obviously the address to access to the website.

4.3. Confirmation of the subcommission board

It is decided to introduce the rule that the board (chairperson and secretary) of the subcommission should be confirmed or replaced every 3 years in order to allow a more easy intervention in case of non activity of teh subcommission.

4.4. How to deal with changing stratigraphic nomenclature after the publication of the map ?

In principle each map has a date of print which obviously refers to the stratigraphic definitions valid at that time. For changes since the date of print the user should refer to the ncs website.

A discussion is held on the possibility of ‘print on demand’ versions of maps or on the way of delivering up to date nomenclature and stratigraphic information when maps are consulted on the website , a much more common situation than the purchase of new print versions of a map.

E.GOEMAERE & M. DE CEUKELAIRE

N.VANDENBERGHE

Secretaries

President