



The Association of Geological Surveys of the European Union  
(EuroGeoSurveys)  
in their position as  
custodians to their national natural resources  
and  
guardians of their terrestrial environment  
present their contribution

**The Davignon High Level panel report on  
Implementation of the JRC's Mission**

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### **Future task for the JRC**

The HLP thinks that the JRC has to be transformed into a Union body, serving the Union that is the Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States in an responsive and accountable way. All three of the Unions Institutions need scientific advice, research and services to support their respective roles in law making and government.

The panel contends that it is already possible to identify three broad categories of need linked to

- the scientific underpinning and information related to the process of Union policy development
- monitoring the working of legislation in practice
- responding to crisis situations or unforeseen new needs.

Especially in the field of environment and food safety several difficult situations have developed during the last years in the EU in which a decisive and up-to-date and pertinent scientific knowledge to inform decision makers has lacked. The JRC could be the institution to deliver the necessary information immediately.

### **Geology as an important factor for future legislation**

Eurogeosurveys, a group combining the Geological surveys of all 16 states of the European Community, has the impression that in the European Community the scientific investigation of a very important matter has been strongly neglected, this is the influence of the Geology on the well being of the humans and animals and on many important developments in modern society. A few examples may show the political importance of Geology and its influences. These are

- impact of Geology on the environment. Just one important point is the contamination of ground water by humans, which can be caused by the waste of industrial sites, by overuse of groundwater and the overuse of chemical nutrition of agricultural land to increase production.
- the weight of geology for the possibilities to finally store dangerous wastes, e.g. the final deposition of nuclear waste, of poisonous chemical or industrial waste.
- the importance of geology for considerations for the position of new waste disposal sites. Since the contamination of groundwater may be a direct result of badly selected sites for such deposits a discrete knowledge is an important safety factor for all countries of the EU.
- the prominence of geology on the availability and the quality of ground water,
- the thread of Geohazards to the population of the EU. Dangerous effects are mainly earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A detailed knowledge of these threads depending on the different countries is the basis for particular measures to increase the safety of the countries affected.
- problems with saltwater intrusion into coastal areas especially in the Mediterranean part of the EU,

These points mentioned are just a few of the many problems which can be handled much easier if scientific advice is available. So according to our opinion a Centre of Excellence considering the geological background and its influence on any new regulation considered by the EU as a standard for all European countries could be a very valuable means to increase the standard of living in all of these countries.

The restructuring of the JRC gives the EU a possibility to install such a Centre of Excellence. Since it is of exceeding influence on the health of the population, the health of the environment and by this also for the health of the animals we breed, the necessity of such a unit seems overdue.