

CGMS CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Summary of the Working Paper

This Working Paper presents proposals for the handling of the CGMS Consolidated Report with reference to the Permanent Action 5.

CGMS Members are invited to evaluate the proposals and provide their views.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

The current Permanent Action 5 tasks CGMS Members

“To update their relevant sections of the CGMS Consolidated Report as appropriate and to send their updates to the Secretariat at least 2 months prior to every CGMS plenary meeting.”

Considering the most recent CGMS Meetings, it can be noted that

- At CGMS XXX (2002), there were no updates,
- At CGMS XXXI (2003), updates were sent by four CGMS Members,
- At CGMS XXXII (2004), no updates were required, and a proposal for a new structure of the Consolidated Report was tabled by the Secretariat,
- At CGMS XXXIII (2005), updates were sent by three CGMS Members,
- At the present CGMS XXXIV, updates have been sent by one Member.

An overall analysis of the updates submitted in the last years thus reveals that they have been submitted just by few CGMS Members, notwithstanding the gradual increase in the CMGS Membership.

2 THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT

In the view of the Secretariat, the Consolidated Report in its present form provides a valuable historical record of the first 30 years of CGMS meetings. However, a process of gradual update may imply that, in effect, some of this historical information risks to be being progressively lost.

Following a recent review of the document, and taking into account the situation exposed above on the updates sent in the most recent years, the Secretariat would like to propose three possible solutions for discussion.

The first solution that the Secretariat wishes to propose would be to basically freeze the Report as it is, and re-classify it as a historical document called, for example, "CGMS – the first 30 Years, 1972-2002".

The document in its present form would only need marginal editing to, e.g. correct for tenses, remove non-entries, remove duplicated material, etc., in view of its merging with the existing “CGMS 01 Publication - Consolidated Report of CGMS Activities (2003)”. This historical document would then be accessed via a link on the CGMS Publications page in the EUMETSAT institutional website.

As a consequence, the Permanent Action 5 would be closed and the yearly CGMS Meeting Reports be used as a working reference, whilst the Consolidated Report would be updated at regular intervals every few years, to preserve its fundamental reference role.

The second solution that the Secretariat wishes to submit would be a continuation of the updating process, but with a closer follow-up by the Secretariat under tighter deadlines, including a rewording of Permanent Action 5.

The CGMS Members would thus be tasked to periodically review and update all relevant sections of the Consolidated Report through their appointed Points of Contact (cf. Annex), enabling also the most recent Members to provide their contribution in a coordinated way. This would require a sustained effort from everyone for a balanced editorial approach, critically aiming at

- Avoiding the loss of historical information,
- Managing periodical updates from the CGMS Members to be accommodated in a revised structure able to expand,
- Delivering timely and exhaustive information on programmes and CGMS Members.

In the future, as explained in the EUMETSAT-WP-12 of CGMS XXXIII, the Consolidated Report could be suitably updated online through a matrix structure (by Member and by topic), which would possibly constitute an effective remedy to the limitations of the hard copy format.

The third solution that the Secretariat intends to propose would be maintaining the updating process as it is now, therefore under the same conditions currently established by the Permanent Action 5.

The Consolidated Report would remain the main CGMS reference text and be subject to the periodical updates by CGMS Members, particularly in the satellite tables' sections and other parts as viewed appropriate by the Members themselves. Since no major restructuring of the text would be necessary, its historical value would be in principle preserved, however the absence of contributions from the most recent CGMS Members might possibly put into question its overall relevance in the long-term.

4 CONCLUSION

On the basis of the elements provided, CGMS Members are invited to evaluate the proposals by the Secretariat for the handling of the Consolidated Report, and offer their views on the matter.

ANNEX

List of Points of Contact for the CGMS Consolidated Report (Action 32.03):

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CNSA	
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