

## **Proposal for a EAWS-Working Group on finding possibilities for funding a EAWS General Secretary**

### **Background**

- The MoU states that new developments within the EAWS are created within so-called Working Groups (WG) which were assigned by the General Assembly (GA)
- Progress for new developments and harmonising and implementing these new developments within the WG is purely based voluntary work and self-initiatives of interested forecasters.
- Relying purely on voluntary work of persons which are notoriously overloaded and overcommitted by operational and/or administrative work reduces the progress in a remarkable way. In addition, the effort of organising this creative process within the WG is often ineffective.
- In fact, adopting recent implementations needed more than one two-years term. The first ideas on a common MoU, e.g., were discussed since 2011, the final version was set in position in 2017. Avalanche size definitions were discussed for almost a decade. Also changes within the danger scale, definitions of very important parameters were discussed for many years now without obtaining comprehensible results or common thinking
- The consequence of such a long period of discussion is ambiguity for important parameters within avalanche forecasting which results in inconsistencies and lower values for the users of our avalanche reports.

### **Objectives**

- In order to enhance progress within the WG, we suggest to install/employ a part or full-time position within the EAWS acting as a General Secretary. The General Secretary will cover several tasks:
  - She/He will help all WG members with technical, but most importantly with organisational work, i.e. give support in organise meetings (virtual and face-to-face), distribute documents during the creative process within a two-years term, monitor deadlines and help in obtaining sustainable compromises.
  - Ensure further fund raising
  - Represent EAWS
- We will do a short state-of-the-art how other organisations such as IGS, IMG or the Meteoservices in Europe dealt with such a position (how did they fund the position, employment, tasks, etc.)
- We will do a review on possibilities for funding such a position with a final suggestion how to proceed.

Suggested Working Group Leader: Christoph Mitterer