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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NETWORK
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DURING 1986-1988

1. In October 1986, at the invitation of CEMAGREF and CNFSH, a meeting was held at Aix-en-Provence to study the feasibility of a network of representative and experimental basins. Many of those who are present here today were among the 38 participants from six countries who attended the Aix-en-Provence meeting. The main conclusion, which was unanimously recommended, was: the establishment of such a research network.

The meeting specifically requested a detailed examination of the question of organizing the network. A questionnaire was subsequently circulated; it was included in the bilingual proceedings of the Aix-en-Provence meeting.

2. We received detailed replies from 11 countries. The analysis is reported in the "implementation of the recommendations made at the Aix-en-Provence meeting in Oct. 1986" document. The report was published in English and French in June 1987 and distributed.

The replies expressed the following points of view:

- a. The Euromediterranean network of experimental and representative basins is constituted by managing bodies and research teams working on high quality basins.
- b. The network is based on the principle of information exchange, periodical visits and meetings.
- c. Specific issues, such as erosion processes under Mediterranean climatic conditions, enable closer collaboration through the standardization of experimental designs and methods.
- d. In the initial phase, the national IHP-UNESCO committees could serve as circuits for information transmission. Each committee would nominate a national representative for the experimental and representative basin network. One of the national representatives could be nominated as network coordinator for a fixed term.

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3. In August 1987, some of the members (France, FRG, Italy, Switzerland, UK) of this network had the opportunity to meet at the IAHS general assembly meeting in Vancouver, Canada. It was agreed that the national representatives should be appointed as soon as possible.

The Italian counterparts agreed to host the next meeting of the general assembly in 1988.

During the second half of 1987, six countries, Belgium, France, FRG, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, handed in the names of their representatives, followed by UK and Portugal.

4. During a visit to Tunisia in late 1987, G. OBERLIN of CEMAGREF, Lyon, toured the experimental basins for studies on erosion and soil conservation methods. He was accompanied by S. BOUZIANE, Director of the tunisian operation, who had also attended the Aix-en-Provence meeting.

In February 1988, we were invited by UNESCO to Hawaiï for the preparatory meeting of the upcoming international workshop on "Hydrology and Water Management Strategies in the Humid Tropics" that is organized by IHP-IV, UNESCO, and will be held in Australia in July 1989.

At the meeting, we met the American forest hydrologist Larry HAMILTON, who is coordinating in Asia-Pacific forest watershed network and publishes the "Asia-Pacific Forest Watershed Newsletter."

The network is based on similar concepts and is very active in the area of representative and experimental basins.

The steering committee of the FRENZ Project that will be discussed later by Alan GUSTARD met in Koblenz, FRG, in April 1988. We were invited to the meeting and Guy OBERLIN attended it. The FRENZ Project was developed as part of IHP-III of UNESCO and groups several European research teams at the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, UK. It serves as an excellent example of networking with themes and means that are of definite interest to the Euromediterranean network.

5. On an international level, the network is in contact with FAO and UNESCO.

FAO was present as an observer at the Aix-en-Provence meeting and put us in contact with the FAO Working Group on mountain basin management. The Group invited us to its 16 th meeting held in Aix-en-Provence in June 1988. It organized its field day in the Draix basin (Haute Provence Alps). Guy OBERLIN attended as representative and gave an overview of the Euromediterranean network.

The IHP intergovernment council met in mid-June 1988 at UNESCO to approve the fourth phase of its program. The representative of the French IHP national committee presented an overview of the Euromediterranean network, with support from other European national committees, which were thus officially recognized.

6. A concrete form of information exchange had to be undertaken as this is the primary purpose and activity of the Euromediterranean network. Following the idea of the Hawaiian colleagues, we took the initiative to start a network newsletter. The first issue was published in July 1988 with the assistance of CEMAGREF, Lyon, and Guy OBERLIN.

This is only the first attempt ; it is your contributions and observations that will help to improve the contents and presentation of "Nouvelle BREves... ERB News".

7. The last few months have been mainly devoted to preparations for this meeting, in collaboration with our Italian colleague, Virgilio ANSELMO.

We are happy to see that as a result of our efforts, a large number of participants are attending this meeting and have shown keen interest in the topics selected for discussion.

We should also not forget that the beautiful city of Perugia and the warm welcome extended by our Italian hosts, have also played an important part.

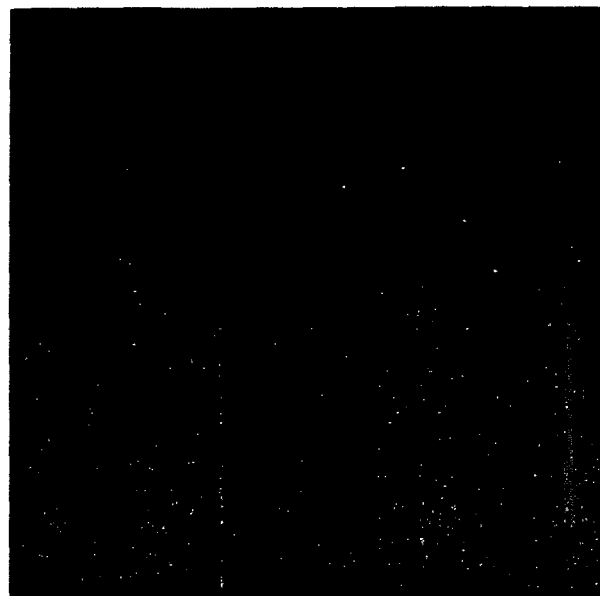
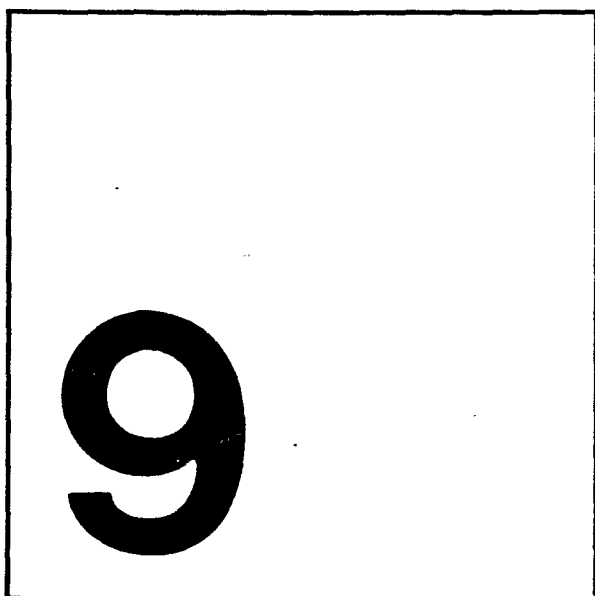
8. In conclusion, I hope that this meeting will provide the necessary impetus to the network, with the launching of a large number of projects.

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**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF REPRESENTATIVE
AND EXPERIMENTAL BASINS**

2nd GENERAL MEETING, PERUGIA (ITALY)
3-6 OCTOBER, 1988

PUBBLICAZIONE DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI IDRONOMIA

NUMERO SPECIALE

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