

POLISH POLAR RESEARCH	14	2	211	1993
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CHRONICLE

European Polar Forum (EPF)

The idea of European Collaboration in Polar Research was first put forward by Dr J.D. Drewry, the Director of the British Antarctic Survey, at an *ad hoc* meeting organized by him during the XXII SCAR Meeting at Bariloche (Argentina) in 1992. More discussions followed during the XVII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Venice (1993) and afterwards. They had resulted in a Workshop on European Collaboration in Polar Research in Granada, Spain, jointly organized by the ESF/CEC ECOPS (European Science Foundation/Council of European Countries, European Commission on Ocean and Polar Studies) and the Spanish National Antarctic Programme, from 28 September to 1 October, 1993. Dr David J. Drewry acted as the Convenor of the Meeting, and Dr Josefina Castellvi Piulachs — the Head of the Spanish National Antarctic Programme, on behalf of local organizers. The venue — the picturesque ancient city of Granada rich in historical monuments, once the site of a famous Arab university, dominated by the fabulous Alhambra, with magnificent Sierra Nevada in the background, could not have been better chosen to highlight the occasion of establishment of a new line of scientific cooperation between European countries.

Representatives of fifteen European countries active in Polar research participated, including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. An observer from Greece was also present.

The following working documents were presented:

K. Birkenmajer (PL) and D.J. Drewry (UK): Cooperation in science projects;

O. Orheim (N), A. Karlqvist (S) and R. Mansukoski (SF): Cooperation on logistics and operations;

J.R. Shears (UK): European cooperation on environmental issues in the Polar regions;

R. Gendrin (F) and M. Zucchelli (I): European cooperation on technology for Polar activities.

As a result of extensive discussion, two main projects have been defined which will be subject to further planning and implementation, one for each of the Polar regions: EPICA (European Programme of Ice Coring in Antarctica) and STARTREC (Studies on Arctic Russian European Coasts).

The Meeting have decided to continue cooperation in Polar Research under the ESF ECOPS umbrella as the European Polar Forum (EPF). Two meetings are being planned for 1994 to further develop the projects and the cooperation: in Oslo in March (STARTREC), and in Innsbruck in October (IInd EPF).

Krzysztof BIRKENMAJER