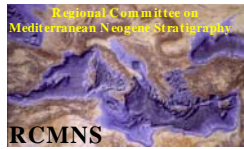




Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero



Regional Committee on
Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy



Università degli Studi di Napoli
"Federico II"



Università degli Studi di Parma



Italian Association
for Sedimentary
Geology

**International Union of Geological Sciences
Subcommission on Neogene Stratigraphy**
Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy

13th Congress RCMNS 2-6 September 2009, Naples (Italy)

**Earth System Evolution and the Mediterranean
area from 23Ma to the present**



The Neogene is a time interval spanning from 23 Ma to the present that has witnessed relevant geographical and environmental changes in the Mediterranean. The geological history of the marine and continental systems of this realm is an important topic for Earth scientists, who largely depend on the analysis of geological archives to obtain information concerning the dynamic evolution of Earth System. This is a prerequisite to reach an accurate understanding of the Earth as a "global system".

The Mediterranean is a semi-enclosed, land-locked basin characterised by well-known continental runoff, and interrelates changes with the open ocean through various mechanisms, and is a very climate-sensitive area making it an ideal scenario for high resolution study at basin scale of climate changes. In addition, the close relationships between the Mediterranean sea and its continental surroundings, dominated by different climatic regimes, allows to compare its regional climate variations with those at global scale.

For the above reasons, this region may be considered a natural laboratory where the complex interactions among atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere may be analysed, as well as the regional spread of mammal faunas, floras, marine biotas and the interference of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The study of these phenomena can also help answer prominent questions regarding future climate evolution among which; i) the tropicalization effects of temperate areas, ii) the dynamics of abrupt climatic changes during the pre-Holocene time intervals, iii) the timing of the next glaciation, iv) the climate stability during the Holocene, v) the climatic changes recorded in the last three centuries and related to the variability of the solar constant, and the anthropic impact.

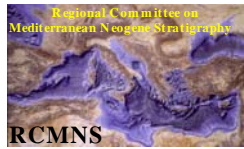
The Regional Committee for Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy (RCMNS) represents one of the most relevant organizations on the above issues. Since its establishment, in the sixties of the last century, the RCMNS has worked towards improving the Neogene chronostratigraphy in its relations with Mediterranean and adjacent Paratethys regions. A considerable number of publications testifies the advancements in this regards.

Very significant steps mark these developments:

- establishment of the modern definition of stage, (the 6th congress held in Bratislava,1975);
- promotion of relationships among scientists from Eastern and Western Europe which resulted in more active and strict collaboration (especially after the 10th congress held in Bucharest in 1995);
- more intense collaboration in the last fifteen years with the North African scientific communities, which resulted in the North-South calibration of the chronostratigraphic charts;
- and last but not least, improvement of the relationships between the Paratethys and Mediterranean researchers, focussed on chronological, paleogeographical and paleoceanographic aspects and



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offering an opportunity to unambiguously understand the Neogene stratigraphy of the Eastern Paratethys in terms of global and Mediterranean timescales.

Organizing Committee:

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Scientific Topics (preliminary list)

1. Modern Trends in stratigraphy (stable isotopes, paleomagnetism, sequence stratigraphy, cyclostratigraphy)
2. Climate simulation and reconstruction
3. Eustatic and non eustatic sea-level changes
4. Paleooceanography
5. Marine Geology
6. Shallow water carbonates
7. Shallow and deep water evaporates
8. Continental sedimentation
9. Tectono-sedimentary evolution of PeriMediterranean active areas
10. Neogene Volcanism in the Mediterranean
11. Paratethys and Mediterranean mutual influence
12. Neogene to Present Mediterranean physiographic evolution
13. Neogene bio-events versus present biodiversity
14. Ecosystem dynamics and terrestrial dispersal
15. Coastal evolution and protection
16. Humans as geological agents
17. Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP)
18. Potential Oil reservoirs

RCMNS- Executive Board

Agustî Jordi, Werner E. Piller, Wout Krijgsman, Fabrizio Lirer, Silvia Iaccarino, Madelaine Bohme, Mathias Harzhauser, Fritz J. Hilgen, George Koufos, Michal Kovac, Volker Mosbrugger, Jean-Pierre Suc, Fred Rögl, Martin Zuschin, Marius Stoika, Mario Sprovieri, Marco Roveri, Wladimir Semenenko

Excursions of variable length before and/or after the Congress will be organized in selected areas.

If you plan to organize an excursion on the main scientific topics proposed in the present circular, please contact the Organizing Committee before May 31th, 2008

Invited lectures will introduce the main topics

Details on <http://www.geomare.na.cnr.it/RCMNS.html> starting June 2008