

Space weather and climate in the frame of the european science foundation: E-Star

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In May 1999, the European Science Foundation established a new scientific network on Space Processes and Electrical Changes Influencing Atmospheric Layers (SPECIAL), upon the initiative of Michael Rycroft. It engendered substantial interdisciplinary discussion and research to explore the physical mechanisms by which space weather and space climate are causally linked to the Earth's weather and climate by solar effects and aerosols. In February 2003, the representatives of the SPECIAL, Climate Modelling, Space Physics, and the Information Technology community decided to begin a collaborative effort for a larger European Solar Terrestrial and Atmospheric Research programme, denoted E-STAR. The resulting E-STAR letter of intent was submitted to the EUROCORES programme of the European Science Foundation on April 1st, 2003. The ESF decided to organize a first E-STAR meeting from November 27-28, 2003, at the International Space University in Illkirch, France. This meeting brings together E-STAR scientists, the chairmen of space programmes in Europe, and representatives of national funding institutions to discuss any further proceeding of the E-STAR programme. In this talk, I will present the goals of this new action, its organisation and its future milestones.