

COST 724 on Space Weather: at the edge of its start.

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A COST action aims at the coordination of science activities in Europe. In the current efforts to organise Space Weather in Europe, the European Community approved a new COST action (724). The main objective of the Action is to develop further within a European framework the science underpinning space weather applications, as well as exploring methods for providing a comprehensive range of space weather services to a variety of users, based on modelling and monitoring of the sun-Earth system. Although the action was approved as early as the end of year 2002, it had to wait for the reorganisation of the EC science in the frame of FP6 before it finally starts. In the meantime, the European landscape has slightly changed. A new action called E-star is birthing under ESF leadership and a Eurocore structure. The ESA Space Weather Working Team got a new organisation. The SWP - FP6 proposal is under way for new developments. The SWENET network has been set. This shows the dynamism of Europe in the field of Space Weather.

Focussing on the COST 724 action, the inaugural meeting is now set in Brussels at the end of November 2003. In this talk, I will give the current status of the Action and the important milestones that it will face in the very next future.