



Sofia, 23 August 2012

Dear colleagues and members of **NECLIME**,

We are pleased to announce the **Second Circular** of the “**European**” **NECLIME meeting**, Sofia, Bulgaria from **1st to 4th October 2012**.

This year the meeting includes Conference, Workshop and Fieldtrip.

The NECLIME Conference

The NECLIME conference in Sofia, complementary to our Asian meeting in Nanjing earlier this year, will focus on ***climate and vegetation evolution in the Paratethys and Eastern Mediterranean, including Black Sea area and Turkish lacustrine basins***. The main topics are:

East meets West - Neogene climate and vegetation evolution from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Eastern and Central Paratethys;

Aridification trends and large scale changes of palaeovegetation patterns - evidence from plants and vertebrates;

The Plio-Pleistocene transition – evidence from the Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea and surrounding lacustrine basins;

Multi-proxy approaches in continental palaeoclimate reconstruction;

Evolution and dynamics of lacustrine systems;

Higher resolving reconstructions.

The NECLIME workshop

In the frame of the NECLIME conference a joint workshop of the working groups on taxonomy of the Cenozoic macrobotanical record of Eurasia and on the taxonomy of Neogene palynomorphs will be held. The intended topics are:

- Integration of diverse plant records - the prospects of joint studies;
- taxon complexes in the Cenozoic plant record and novelties in the taxonomy of Cenozoic plants;
- NECLIME database - updating the taxonomy of fossil plant taxa and their NLRs, identification of synonyms;
- exchange of palaeobotanical/botanical data from China; possibilities to develop/improve available data (e.g revisions, reinvestigation of localities) - prospects of cooperation with Chinese colleagues;
- Plant functional types - recent advances in pft classifications;
- palynomorph taxa critical with respect to taxonomy, botanical affinity and climatic evaluation;
- re-evaluation of Neogene palynomorph records using TLM/SEM in combination - activities and information on ongoing research;



- relevant resources available to palynologists for botanical identification of palynomorphs.

Additional suggestions, ideas on topics to be discussed in the scope of the workshop are highly welcome.

The NECLIME Fieldtrip

Two days fieldtrip to Neogene Basins in Southwest Bulgaria, visiting Gotse Delchev and Satovcha Basins, some outcrops with macroflora, diatomites, open cast mine Kanina, as well as some historical and archaeological sites.

NOTE: We kindly ask participants who will attend the field trip to confirm their participation.

General schedule:

Monday October 1st

Registration and welcome dinner

Tuesday October 2nd

Introduction, NECLIME news

Oral and poster presentations

Wednesday October 3rd

Oral and poster presentations

Discussion, concluding remarks

Thursday October 4th

Joint workshop of the working groups on the taxonomy of the Cenozoic macrobotanical record of Eurasia and on the taxonomy of Neogene palynomorphs.

Work with reference collections and palaeobotanical collection, etc.

Two days fieldtrip to Neogene Basins in Southwest Bulgaria:

Departure: **Friday October 5th**

Return: **Saturday October 6th, late afternoon**

Sunday October 7th

Departure of participants

Scientific Sessions will be held in the Conference Hall of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (former Institute of Botany), 23, Acad. G. Bonchev Str. The institute building is at 5-10 min walking distance from the hotel.

The technical equipment for presentations includes laptop and beamer. Please let us know if you need some specific equipment. If you need Internet connection for your presentation please inform the organizers.

The Duration of the lectures is expected at 20 min.

Conference fee

As we announced in the first circular the conference fee is **50 Euro** per Person to cover costs for welcome dinner, coffee breaks, conference facilities, abstract volume, etc.



The conference fee for **Accompanying person** is **30 Euro** per Person to cover costs for welcome dinner, coffee breaks.

The field trip fee is **150 Euro** and covers transportation, accommodation, meals and other facilities.

You can make payment in two different ways:

1) By bank transfer to the bank account of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS:

Bank name: UniCredit Bulbank
Branch: Batenberg, Sofia
Account No: **BG44UNCR96603120718711**

BIC - UNCRBGSF

Payment should be made without charges to the beneficiary (recipient). Please indicate NECLIME conference as transfer purpose. Please, ensure to send a copy of your transfer form.

2) Payment in cash is also possible on arrival, at the registration desk.

Short information about Sofia

The city. Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, has a history that goes back thousands of years. Through the centuries, many peoples have inhabited it and added to its rich and diverse history. Numerous Neolithic villages have been discovered in the area, while a chalcolithic settlement has been recently discovered in the very centre of modern Sofia. Today there are many archaeological sites in Sofia, that display the city's diverse history - the castle gates and towers of Serdica, public buildings and streets thousands of years old.

Transport. Sofia is easily accessible by air, train, bus or car and the proper transportation mean is your choice.

The price of taxi from airport to the hotel is ca 5 Euros. For your comfort and safety, Sofia Airport recommends that you take a taxi at the designated taxi stands in front of the western exits from Arrivals at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. (for details see airport website: <http://www.sofia-airport.bg/pages/content.aspx?lm01=120&lm02=119>). Duration of the travel is ca 10-15 min depending on the traffic. One of recommended taxi company is "OK Supertrans" AD, phone +3592 973 21 21, <http://oktaxi.net>.

Alternatively, you could request a taxi at the desks of the taxi companies, which are located in the Arrival halls of the both terminals.

Public transportation. The **bus line No 84** operates on the following route: Gen. Gurko Str. – Tzarigradsko shose Blvd. – Christopher Columbus Blvd. – Prodan Tarakchiev Str. – Airport Terminal 2 – Airport Terminal 1. The reverse route is from Terminal 1, along Christopher Columbus Blvd, towards Gen. Gurko Str. You need to stop at bus station **Pliska**. The bus station is close to Hotel Pliska. You can buy tickets at airport (see kiosk) or from the driver. The price is 1 BGN (= 0.5 Eur). Duration of the travel is ca 20-25 min depending on the traffic.

Below are maps with the location of airport, hotel and Conference (Building of former Institute of Botany, 23, Acad G. Bonchev Str.).



Weather. The beginning of October is usually warm and sunny, with daily temperatures 22-25 degrees, and night temperatures about 10-12 degrees. Let's be in hope of having a wonderful "indian summer" but please don't forget your umbrella.

Currency. The unit of currency in Bulgaria (BGN) is the lev, divided into 100 stotinki. The official exchange rate of National Bank is 1 Euro = 1.955830 BGN.

Visa requirements. The entry formalities for Bulgaria vary according to the country of origin. For EU countries visa is not required. We hope that you've already organized all formalities.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Bulgaria.

Yours,

Dimiter Ivanov, Torsten Utescher, Vladimir Bozukov, Boglarka Erdei, Elżbieta Worobiec, Angela A. Bruch.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us for any concern or with any suggestion.

