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Dr. F. Rabier
Director General
ECMWF
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Reading
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UNITED KINGDOM

Date: August 7th, 2018
Subject: Letter of support for ExtremeEarth

Dear Dr Rabier,

I am writing this letter to express my support for ExtremeEarth as a preparatory project for an EU Flagship. As Director General of the Netherlands' public weather service, I attach great value to the realization of this project. Let me explain why. As national weather service, KNMI makes use of the best weather and climate models to inform Dutch society about the changes in the weather, climate and related subjects. In my view the success of ExtremeEarth as an EU Flagship project will contribute substantially to the continuous improvement of our services, here in Europe and elsewhere.

KNMI has a particular interest in early warning concepts, as climate change leads to extreme weather events that occur more frequently than in the past. Good forecasts of hazardous weather and solid scenarios of the climate targeted to societal and regional impact assessment are essential to save life and property. Predictions of extreme weather events rely on very advanced numerical models. The skill of these models to predict extremes is limited by computing capabilities. The development of applications for novel digital infrastructures as proposed by ExtremeEarth is therefore essential for the future development of the services to be delivered to society by KNMI.

As described in the high-level introduction (see www.extremearth.eu/introduction) the ExtremeEarth proposal addresses these issues with an excellent group of research partners. Many of these groups are closely related to KNMI. We have active engagement not only with ECMWF and other meteorological organisations, but also with the group focusing on the benefits of an ExtremeEarth activity for hydrological applications and the Dutch E-Science Centre. The consortium will pave the way towards new exascale computing platforms. Projects like ExtremeEarth will make a crucial link between the scientific and computing needs of KNMI and the European Commissions' ambitions towards exascale computing and the real-time exploitation of environmental data. This will be essential to further develop reliable and trustworthy meteorological and climate services by KNMI.

It is for these reasons that I would like to express my strong support for the approval of the ExtremeEarth project. The realization of this project will not only be beneficial for a national weather service like KNMI in the Netherlands, but for a

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Our reference

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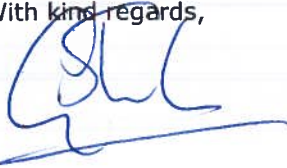
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large group of European environmental services. It will lead to a safer and more resilient Europe in times of climate change.

KNMI is happy to contribute actively to the preparatory project. We can help formulating the requirements and organizational structure that will optimize the added value to water authorities, traffic control centers, health organizations, climate impact communities and our stakeholders in our national and international collaboration networks. We are also willing to host meetings, contribute to outreach activities or participate in feasibility studies.

It is in our joint interest that ExtremeEarth will be as successful as it deserves to be.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. van der Steenhoven', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof. Gerard van der Steenhoven
Director-General of KNMI