



Schweiz. Geologische Gesellschaft  
Société Géologique Suisse  
Societa Geologica Svizzera  
Swiss Geological Society

Prof. Dr. Christoph Spötl  
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### **100 years Austrian Geological Society**

Dear Professor Spötl,

Please find hereunder the message of the Swiss Geological Society,

“Being unable to join you for this anniversary, let me address a few words on behalf of the Swiss Geological Society.

Swiss geology traditionally had close ties with Austrian colleagues, since our two countries, together with other Alpine countries, focussed a large part of their research on the Alps. Alpine Geology in Switzerland was very much influenced by mutual interactions: Edward Suess, Otto Ampferer, Hans Peter Cornelius, Alexander Tollmann and Wolfgang Frank, and of course many other Austrian geologists, come to the mind of every Swiss geologist interested in Alpine Geology; Austrian colleagues have very much influenced our concept of Alpine geology, and they of course keep on doing so.

These days the Alps are often perceived as a "terra cognita" not really being of general interest any more. Yet the Alps still serve as one of the best “natural laboratories” for studying processes. Moreover, meetings such the bi-annual Workshops on Alpine Geological Studies are always an opportunity to present and discuss research directions and new discoveries made along the Alpine belt. It pleases me to emphasize the vitality and originality of all this work. I have no doubt that the Alps still hold great potential for basic discoveries as basic that are relevant to the understanding of the dynamics of our planet.

Today, the community of Alpine geologists faces a new challenge: Global Warming. It is the responsibility of geologists to foresee future changes based on their unique multi-million years perspective, and to share this knowledge with the population of our countries.

Expecting our fruitful exchanges also to extend into the coming 100 years, dear colleagues, let me wish you a happy anniversary.”

Dr Gilles D. Borel  
President