

Schedule of press conferences

Monday, 8 April

14:00 – PC1: Health risks: air pollution, emerging viruses, malaria mosquitoes

Tuesday, 9 April

09:00 – PC2: Beyond EPICA: The quest for a 1.5 million year ice core

10:30 – PC3: Latest research on plastic pollution

13:00 – PC4: Monitoring the Earth from space: new findings

14:00 – PC5: The 2018 heatwave and new research on European climate

15:00 – PC8: New hazards research: Anak Krakatau, glacial lakes and giant quakes

Wednesday, 10 April

09:00 – PC6: Marks of the Anthropocene: past, present and future

11:00 – PC7: ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter first results

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Each press conference will last no more than one hour. Results presented at PC7 are embargoed until Wednesday 1900 CEST. Research presented at other press conferences is embargoed until their starting date/time.

While media briefings and sessions are hosted by the EGU, research presented at the General Assembly is the responsibility of each presenter and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EGU.

About the EGU

The European Geosciences Union (www.egu.eu) is Europe's premier geosciences union, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the Earth, planetary, and space sciences for the benefit of humanity, worldwide. It is a non-profit interdisciplinary learned association of scientists founded in 2002 with headquarters in Munich, Germany. The EGU publishes a number of diverse scientific journals, which use an innovative open access format, and organises a number of topical meetings, and education and outreach activities. Its annual General Assembly is the largest and most prominent European geosciences event, attracting over 14,000 scientists from all over the world. The meeting's sessions cover a wide range of topics, including volcanology, planetary exploration, the Earth's internal structure and atmosphere, climate, energy, and resources. The EGU General Assembly 2019 is taking place in Vienna, Austria, from 7 to 12 April 2019. For information and press registration, please check <https://www.egu.eu/gamedia>, or follow the EGU on Twitter (@EuroGeosciences).

Health risks: air pollution, emerging viruses, malaria mosquitoes

Monday, 08 April, 14:00

Climate change and increasing air and water pollution bring new health risks to human populations. In this press conference, journalists will hear about new findings on the impacts of air pollution on human health and premature mortality for different age ranges and different diseases in Europe. Another team will present new results on how the future distribution of Anopheles mosquitoes may increase malaria risk in some European countries. In another presentation, journalists will hear about new research in slums in sub Saharan Africa that found emerging virus communities in groundwater.

Participants:

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Related scientific sessions: AS3.15, HS8.1.6, ITS4.2/CL4.21/HS11.21/OS2.11

Please mention the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly when reporting on research presented at the meeting, either at press conferences or scientific sessions.

Beyond EPICA: The quest for a 1.5 million year ice core

Tuesday, 09 April, 09:00

An ideal location has been found for drilling an ice core which goes as far back in Earth's history as possible. Internationally leading ice and climate scientists of 14 institutions from ten European countries have been searching for this spot in Antarctica in the project Beyond EPICA – Oldest Ice funded by the European Commission. They are going to report on their Antarctic field campaigns that led to the choice of the drill site and give an outlook for the next step to recover an ice core. This 'oldest ice' would allow to improve our understanding of past processes in the climate system over the last 1.5 million years and improve prognoses for the future.

Participants:

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Related scientific sessions: CL1.09/CR1.10/NP4.7

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Latest research on plastic pollution

Tuesday, 09 April, 10:30

Plastic is everywhere. This durable and widely used material is a persistent pollutant that contaminates rivers, can damage marine life and enter the food chain. In this press conference, researchers will present the first evidence of the occurrence of microplastic in a terrestrial glacier environment and the first global overview of microplastic distributions in rivers, lakes and estuaries. Moving from the land to the sea, we will hear about the latest global simulations of dispersion and accumulation of plastic in the oceans, including results of a 3D model of plastic distribution in the ocean waters. We will also hear about how marine plastic debris can be used to improve our understanding of ocean currents.

Participants:

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Related scientific sessions: ITS5.2/OS4.13/EOS10.2/BG3.18/GM6.6/HS11.63, SCS2/HS1.2.13/OS4.36, CR7.2/BG1.49/HS2.3.7

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Monitoring the Earth from space: new findings

Tuesday, 09 April, 13:00

Technology advances now allow us to see the Earth from space in unprecedented detail and scientists are increasingly using satellite data to help us learn about our planet. At a presentation in this press conference, journalists will hear preliminary findings from work that used satellite data from the Landsat archive to reconstruct 35 years of forest mortality for all of continental Europe. A team from Italy will report on new techniques to monitor ground deformation of active volcanoes from space, using Copernicus Sentinel-1 data, while a UK team will report on their method to detect marine litter using data from the Sentinel-2 satellite. In a final presentation, we will hear the first results from the Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM), a suite of instruments on the International Space Station observing flashes of gamma-rays and lightning into the stratosphere powered by thunderstorms.

Participants:

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Related scientific session: BG2.3, NH6.1/GI3.20/HS11.38, NH1.2/AS1.29, ITS5.2/OS4.13/EOS10.2/
BG3.18/GM6.6/HS11.63

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The 2018 heatwave and new research on European climate

Tuesday, 09 April, 14:00

The 2018 heatwave in North America, Europe and Asia saw extreme temperatures that caused loss of life, severe wildfires, and damage to infrastructures. A presentation in this press conference will look into the role human-induced climate change played in causing this record-breaking heatwave. Zooming in on Europe, another presentation will outline the key results from the European State of the Climate 2018 report. Following this, scientists will reveal striking new findings on the future evolution of Alpine glaciers and present new research on past and future snow conditions in Europe. Changing focus and looking into the European past, a final presentation will show what research into past climate conditions and construction activity can tell us about disease, famine and war in Europe from 1250 to 1699.

Participants:

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Related scientific session: CR1.1/CL3.07, CL4.23, CL1.38/BG2.41, OS4.11, CL5.01

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New hazards research: Anak Krakatau, glacial lakes and giant quakes

Tuesday, 9 April, 15:00

On 22 December 2018, a deadly tsunami struck Indonesia's Sunda Strait, after activity at Anak Krakatau caused a piece of the western flank of the volcano to collapse to the sea. In this press conference, journalists will hear about new findings on this devastating eruption tsunami. In another presentation, reporters will learn about new research into giant earthquakes, a hazard able to affect large areas. They will find out about the largest quakes to have occurred on our planet, what caused them, and how frequent they may be. Finally, reporters will hear about an often poorly understood hazard in a presentation that will provide the first assessment of glacial lake outburst flood risk across the entire Tibetan Plateau and will identify glacial lakes that pose more of a threat to human settlements.

Participants:

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Related scientific sessions: NH2.1/GMPV5.18, NH4.2/SM3.4, ITS4.8/AS4.46/BG1.41/CL3.13/CR1.12/GM5.6

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Marks of the Anthropocene: past, present and future

Wednesday, 10 April, 09:00

Many scientists argue we are living in the Anthropocene, a geological epoch shaped by human actions. In this press conference, journalists will hear about marks human activities have left, and continue to leave, on our planet. In one presentation, reporters will find out about a new 3D model of anthropogenic sediments under the city of Vienna, dating back up to more than 2,000 years ago. In another presentation, researchers will show evidence of elevated levels of radionuclides (fallout from Chernobyl and nuclear weapons testing) in glaciers across the globe. Another team will show how pesticides sprayed in crops are leaving residues in honey, pollen and beeswax. Finally, journalists will hear about how climate change and the urban heat island effect may leave the urban poor more exposed to deadly heat in major cities worldwide.

Participants:

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Related scientific sessions: ITS5.1/SSP2.1/CL3.01/GM6.7/SSS13.32, CR7.2/BG1.49/HS2.3.7, SSS8.5/BG2.67/HS8.3.15, NH1.9/AS4.31

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ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter first results

Wednesday, 10 April, 11:00

This press conference, which will not be live streamed to the public, is subject to an embargo of 1900 Vienna time / 1800 UK time / 1300 US Eastern Time.

The joint ESA-Roscosmos ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, TGO, began its main science mission at Mars at the end of April 2018. The instrument teams will report on their first few months of data analysis.

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Related scientific sessions: PS1.3

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