

Letter of Commitment



To
Réseau des Géoparks Européens, Cellule de coordination
Réserve Géologique de Haute-Provence
Att: Sylvie Giraud
BP 156
FR-04005 Digne-les-Bains
France

Letter of Commitment Magma Geopark – June 2008

The area that we have chosen to refer to as Magma Geopark has always had close contacts with Europe. Trade with Britain and countries on the Continent, particularly the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, has long traditions in our region. These traditions continue today. The characteristic matie herring is exported to the Netherlands, windows and doors are supplied to Britain, and thousands of Danish and German tourists visit us every summer. Our region is proud of its history and its European connections, and it is believed that Magma Geopark will contribute in developing these further.

Geologists have shown an interest in our region for more than 200 years, and we regularly receive visits from Norwegian and international researchers. Magma Geopark holds a fascinating geological story set in a, geographically speaking, relatively limited area. Hundreds of scientific publications have emerged from this region. Magma Geopark wishes to support the facilitation of further research, and is aware of the special responsibility of passing on the results of such research to both our own population and to visitors from outside.

People in the Magma Geopark area have always known that rocks and mining provide employment for the local population, and constitute a vital foundation for trade and industry. The links between the geology of the area, settlement patterns and trade structures may, however, not be as well known, and on this point Magma Geopark wishes to spread more information in a variety of ways. We believe that more focus on these issues will stimulate the interest in cultural history and the natural sciences. Magma Geopark wants to contribute towards sustainable tourism, where respect for nature, culture and local identity are the building blocks.

Magma Geopark represents a unique geological heritage, and will continue to be of interest to researchers, to the local population and to tourists interested in nature and culture. We are shaping the Geopark so that it will present fresh opportunities for outdoor life and recreational activities, which again will lead to improved public health. The expansion of the various Geopark activities will partly be staged by us, and partly in co-operation with a number of partners. We consider that our aims towards sustainable innovation and tourism would be considerably strengthened by membership of the European Geopark Network/ UNESCO Global Network of Geoparks.

We are aware of the commitments that we would be undertaking by joining the European Geopark Network, and we believe that we can contribute positively to further development of this important international network. We wish to join the European Geopark Network in order to be able to collaborate with other Geoparks, and to expand our own Geopark in accordance with the principles of the European Geopark Network.



Tom Tvedt
Mayor of Rogaland County

Terje Jørgensen jr.,
Chairman, Regional Council of Dalane

Thore Westermoen
Mayor of Vest-Agder County

Marthon Skårland
Mayor, Bjerkreim municipality

Terje Jørgensen jr.,
Mayor, Eigersund municipality

Dag Sørensen
Mayor, Sokndal municipality

Olav Hafstad
Mayor, Lund municipality

Reidar Gausdal
Mayor, Flekkefjord municipality



www.magma-geopark.com