

RESOLUTION ON REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL LAND FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF ECMWF

*Adopted by the Council at its 56th session (June 2002)
(ECMWF/C/56/D(02)1 para. 02.05)*

The Council of ECMWF, representing 17 European states, at its session on 27-28 June 2002, taking into account the recent exchange of correspondence with the UK government on the Centre's requirement for additional land, expressed its concern that imminent actions by or on behalf of the UK Government, the host of the Centre, may constrain development of the Centre, and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Council of ECMWF

Recognising

1. the outstanding rôle of the Centre in global modelling of the atmosphere and oceans;
2. the great scientific, technological and economic benefits to all European Member States from this co-operation;
3. the pressing expectation of a number of European States (not currently Member States) to accede to the Centre's convention;
4. the political will of existing Member States to facilitate the accession of more States;
5. the important and growing rôle of the Centre as a Specialized Meteorological Centre for Medium-Range Forecasting in the World Meteorological Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations;
6. that an international organisation should have the potential to grow in order to meet its objectives, supported by the host nation;
7. the requirement of ECMWF to have its headquarters in an appropriate physical environment;
8. the responsibility of the UK to 'use its best endeavours to facilitate the extension of these buildings or the construction of additional buildings' as stipulated in the HQ Agreement Article 3(4);

Stressing that the original accommodation had been constructed for an envisaged staff complement of 140, that the Centre's current requirements were for more than 200, and that some staff were now in unsuitable accommodation;

Noting

1. that an additional two acres of land adjacent to the present site are estimated as sufficient to meet the Centre's needs;
2. that the said land is subject to a planning application and that its offer for sale on the open market is imminent;
3. that if all the adjacent land is developed for housing, the situation would be irreversible;
4. the great financial benefit accruing to the UK as host nation (which would be increased by extension of the Centre's activities);
5. **Requests** the Government of the United Kingdom to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the additional land could be made available to the Centre, now or at an appropriate time in the future, free of charge as is the practice for international organisations.