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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RADIO SCIENCE

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To whom it may concern...

When the World Data Center for the sunspot number was transferred to Brussels in 1981, the International Union of Radio Science - Union Radio-Scientifique Internationale (URSI) supported the establishment of this data center, together with other scientific unions covering complementary scientific domains (IAU, IUGG, IAGA).

Monitoring the solar activity is of importance to several of the scientific Commissions within URSI, and especially for Commission G (Ionospheric Radio and Propagation), Commission H (Waves in Plasmas) and Commission J (Radio Astronomy). Considering this impact and also the key role of the World Data Center SILSO (Sunspot Index and Long-term Solar Observations) for maintaining a long-term record of the solar activity cycle, URSI confirms here the continued scientific endorsement of the World Data Center SILSO, with regard to the scientific usefulness and quality of the sunspot data produced and archived by this data center in Brussels.

Since the transfer in 1981, no formal and permanent assessment of WDC-SILSO activities was implemented within the URSI commissions, but the abundance of peer-reviewed literature based on the sunspot number time series over the past years provides a good indicator of the validity and significance of this widely-used reference solar data set. In particular, regarding the solar impact on the different fields in which the URSI is specialized, i.e. our planet's environment (geomagnetic indice, radiocommunications, ionosphere etc...) and radio astronomy for example.



With best regards,

Peter Van Daele
URSI Secretary General