



Progress Report for October 2002 to April 2003

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1. Introduction

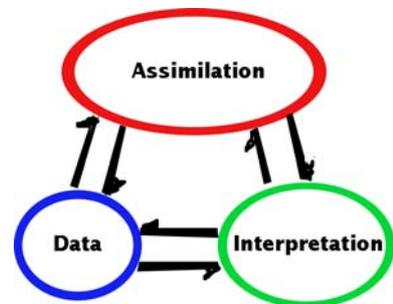
COST Action 723 has the aim to provide value-added quality-controlled datasets of geophysical parameters (e.g., ozone and water vapor) which are believed to be important for the study of radiative, dynamical, and photochemical processes in the upper troposphere / lower stratosphere altitude region (5 km above and below the tropopause).

Hitherto, there has been little information on these geophysical parameters in this region. The Action will contribute toward making the best use of observations, models and assimilation algorithms, and toward the definition of new strategies for future research.

The Action consists of three working groups:

- **WG1:** Data and Measurement Techniques
- **WG2:** An assimilated Ozone and Humidity Dataset
- **WG3:** Assessing the State of the UTLS and Understanding the Relevant Processes

These areas are tightly related, as indicated by the figure to the right. Therefore, the three WGs have to be linked together by common meetings and workshops.



2. Schedule and Plans

Because of the moratorium, no official meetings were possible. The WG Chairmen have started to assemble the WGs by email, but this process has been difficult without knowing when the first meeting will be possible. Initially, the Action was planned to start with a big Opening Workshop, which should have taken place 6 months after the first MC meeting. Due to the moratorium, the MC has decided on October 6-8 as the date of the workshop. Recently, due to the prolongation of the moratorium this date was considered to be no longer possible.

An unofficial meeting to discuss the situation was held at the EGS-AGU-EUG assembly in Nice, on April 8, 2003. In total 17 COST 723 members participated in the meeting. It was decided to move the Opening Workshop to March 11-13, 2004.

After the meeting the Action received the information that some transition money has been made available for 2003, approximately 23 kEuro. Options are now to

- a) Move the Opening Workshop back to October 2003, but accepting that only a fraction of the participants could be paid by COST. (Only 2 per country for the entire workshop.)
- b) Leave the Opening Workshop in March 2004, but have a WG meeting for one of the working groups already in October, in advance of the workshop.

It has not yet been decided which course the MC will follow.

3. COST 723 Website

A dedicated domain has been created for the COST 723 website. The new address is: <http://www.cost723.org/>. The website contains general information about the Action and meeting material. It also hosts mailing lists for MC and WGs, as well as an address database of all COST 723 members. Results of the Action are also planned to be added, as they become available.

4. COST 723 at other Meetings

The COST 723 members gave a number of presentation at the EGS-AGU-EUG assembly in Nice. The relevant ones are currently being collected on the COST 723 website.