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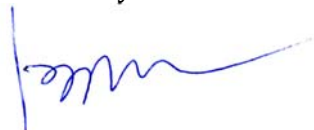
Dear Mr Schulze

We would like to inform you that the ECMWF Council has discussed your concerns regarding the availability of forecast data. The Council has emphasised that ECMWF's primary purpose is to provide medium-range forecasts to the Member and Co-operating States and its ethos is to continually improve the service provided, which is made possible through the strong collaboration with the NMHSs. ECMWF also aims to work with the Member and Co-operating States to develop a healthy and fair relationship with the private sector that promotes economic growth.

We are pleased to inform you that, in light of the above, the ECMWF Council has decided to make the data from the Boundary Conditions Programme available as part of the commercial catalogue. Maximum charge customers will be able to access such data via a subscription to an additional package whose initial price will be a fraction of the maximum charge fee. Standard commercial customers will be able to purchase access to BC products at the same price per EPU as other products from the existing sets. The price will be reviewed annually. We invite you to contact data services, who will be able to answer any question you might have on the selected approach to making more data available.

Please note that the implementation of this decision will require technical, administrative and financial adjustments that will take some time over the next few months. Broader communication to all our users will be provided in due time.

Yours sincerely



Prof Miguel Miranda
President of ECMWF Council