

EGU Executive Office
Prof. Dr. Jonathan Bamber
Luisenstr. 37
80333 Munich
Germany

Fribourg, 09 January 2018

Dear Mr. President,

In 2010, I informed the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in detail about Louis Agassiz (1807-1873) and his extreme racism (see Annex 1 and 2) which I considered incompatible with the EGU's medal of honour, created in 2005 and named after Louis Agassiz. At that time, the EGU Committee's point of view was "*that there is no grounds to take actions to rename the medal*", and Louis Agassiz's extreme racism appeared to the EGU Committee as mere "*opinions*" lying "*far in the past*".

In 2017-18, the EGU's attitude of grossly trivialising Louis Agassiz's racism has not changed and the Louis-Agassiz-Medal is still awarded. The continued honouring of a particularly influential "scientific" racist who pressed the US-Government to take genocidal measures against "half-breeds" and to organize apartheid, which we call today a "crime against humanity", goes hand in hand with a systematic misinformation about Louis Agassiz on the EGU's homepage (see Annex 3).

Awarding a "Louis-Agassiz-Medal" seems to honour "scientific" racism rather than the actual prize-winner. In the light of this, I should like to ask you and the Board of the European Geosciences Union to update the EGU's information about Louis Agassiz and to stop awarding a Louis-Agassiz-Medal.

I look forward to your reactions and remain

Yours sincerely,

Hans Barth

cc.: Prof. Dr. Frank Pattyn, and others.

Annexes 1, 2, 3: My letter to the EGU, dated 29 September 2010; My letter to the EGU, dated 25 October 2010; The European Geosciences Union (EGU)'s misinformation about Louis Agassiz (1807-1873).