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From: **Brian Pratt** <brian.pratt@usask.ca>
Date: Thu, Feb 4, 2010 at 3:02 PM
Subject: Re: Norway: Members versus formations
To: Géza Császár <csaszar.geza@gmail.com>

Dear Geza,

Thanks for your deeply considered commentary! I agree entirely with you and your committee.

I will send this on to Gita, with a copy to Felix Gradstein. Felix is the leader of the Norlex proposal. The discussion is still on-going, so your comments are useful. At this point we must let them sort out things for themselves.

Best regards,

Brian

On 4-Feb-10, at 5:37 AM, Géza Császár wrote:

Dear Brian,

As I had promised the Stratigraphic Committee of Hungary has discussed the situation concerning the change of the rank of Palaeogene lithostratigraphic unit in the North Sea basement according to an idea.

We are convinced that the strict regulation kills the spirit of the best ideas. Both the Hedberg's and Salvador's International Stratigraphic Guides are just guide and not order or command. According to them a lithostratigraphic unit is "a body of rocks that is defined and recognized on the basis of its observable and distinctive lithologic properties or combination of lithologic properties and its stratigraphic relations". It is followed this way: "The degree of change in lithology required to justify the establishment of distinct formations (or other lithostratigraphic units) is not amenable to strict and uniform rules". Later on: "The thickness of units of formation rank follows no standard and may range from less than a meter to several thousand meters, depending on the size of **units required to interpret the lithologic development of the region**". "No formation is considered justifiable and useful that cannot be delineated at the scale of geological mapping practiced in the region where the formation is proposed". Looking at the last, admirable figure (last slide) the thickness and geographic extent of the sandstone bodies are highly variable. Based on the above sentences we could imagine that some of them could be requalified from member rank unit to formation rank while the other ones could remain member. In certain case, if some thin bodies have special importance from geological history, facies point of view (or exceptionally perhaps even hydrocarbon point of

view?) could be named on bed rank.

I am sure we did not tell any news for the Norwegian stratigraphers, just tried to emphasise some aspects of naming and qualifying units.

Sorry for the late answer, and best regards

Geza Csaszar
chair of the Stratigraphic Committee of Hungary