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Union Internationale de Spéléologie

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Ms. Baerbel VOGEL

German Speleological Federation – President
Verband der deutschen Höhlen- und
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Dear President of the German Speleological Federation,

The UIS in capacity of its president and the president of the cave-rescue commission, and on the behalf of the world caving community, would like to share its contentment with respect to the recent, successful rescue of Johann WESTHAUZER in the Riesending-Schachthöhle cave in Germany.

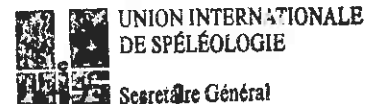
We were informed that the accident happened in a deep and difficult cave. Yet, the strong solidarity resulted in a successful rescue. This is also due to the teams of speleologists who have practiced regular training for many years to adapt and to achieve rescue missions in difficult conditions. Their efforts have been integrated within national civil protection institutions. Prompt action of all major participants could be the critical key for the success.

Many European countries proposed their help and an international collaboration was exemplary. We know that you followed the rescue mission right in order. The UIS has tried to spread out cave rescue techniques to the international caving community. Thanks to the special efforts for the organization of international training courses among cave rescuers from all around the world, international collaboration could be possible to organize the special teams of cave-rescuers who are ready to participate promptly in case of need. This remains to be our international mission in terms of cave rescue and we are happy to see the success of this last rescue.

We wish quick recovery for Johann and we congratulate him for overcoming this difficult ordeal. Dear President, as you already know, the UIS stands by the German Speleological Federation and is ready to assist in terms of cave rescue if needed.

Sincerely yours,

Christian DODELIN
UIS, Adjunct Secretary



Prof. Kyung Sik WOO
UIS, President