Dear Colleague,

we are pleased to inform you that the Call-for-Papers programme of the **European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2011 (Wien, Austria, 03 - 08 April 2011)** is now open.

On behalf of the Programme Committee, we cordially invite you to submit abstracts to the session: "**Cycling of natural and exogenous organic matter in soil environments: from molecular to global scale**" (Division Soil System Sciences, Session **SSS4.3**).

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is January 10, 2011.

In case you would like to apply for financial support (see http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011/support_and_distinction/financial_support.html), please submit no later than **December 3, 2010**.

The description of the Session can be found at http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2011/sessionprogramme/SSS, while information about EGU itself can be found at http://www.egu.eu.

Abstract Registration

During the abstract registration, an author can give his/her preference on whether a contribution should be a poster (choice "Poster") an oral presentation (choice "No preference", since there is no guarantee for oral presentations). Please note that an author is not allowed to submit more than one regular abstract and one solicited abstract with the choice "No preference". Of course, poster presentations are always welcome.

Financial Support

A limited amount of the overall budget of the conference is reserved to assist, as a priority, the younger and more recently established scientists to attend the assembly; moreover, conveners may also support some of the solicited speaker in their session.
Authors are kindly asked to submit their abstract via the link "Abstract Submission with Support Application", located below each session title.
Please remark that the deadline for the receipt of abstracts with support applications is 3 December 2010!
Please do not hesitate to contact us or the EGU Organizing Committee (egu2011@copernicus.org) if you have any questions.

We hope that we can stimulate your interest in **Session SSS4.3**, and we are looking forward to receive your contribution!

Kind regards,

Claudio Ciavatta (Convener); *Teodoro M Miano*, *Claudio Zaccone*, *Cesar Plaza* (Co-Conveners)

European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2011

Vienna, Austria, 03 – 08 April 2011

http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011/home.html

SSS – Soil System Sciences

Session SSS4.3

"Cycling of natural and exogenous organic matter in soil environments: from molecular to global scale"

Convener: Claudio Ciavatta
Dept. of Agro-Environmental Sciences and Technologies, *Alma Mater Studiorum* University of Bologna, viale G. Fanin 40, I-40127 Bologna, Italy
Tel.: +39 051 209-6201; Fax: +39 051 209-6203, E-mail: claudio.ciavatta@unibo.it

Co-Convener: Teodoro M Miano
Dept. of Biology and Chemistry of Agro-Forestry and Environment, University of Bari, via Amendola 165/A, 70126 Bari, Italy
E-mail: miano@aagr.uniba.it

Co-Convener: Claudio Zaccone
Dept. of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Chemistry and Plant Protection
University of Foggia, via Napoli 25, I-71122 Foggia, Italy
Tel: +39 0881 589428, E-mail: c.zaccone@unifg.it

Co-Convener: César Plaza
Centro de Ciencias Medioambientales, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Serrano 115 dpdo., 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel.: +34 917454998, E-mail: c.plaza@ccma.csic.es

Soil organic matter (SOM) plays a paramount role in soil fertility and quality as well as in the fate of pollutants in the environment. The amount of SOM is based on delicate equilibria and processes that are a function of several ecological, pedological, climatic, and intrinsic soil factors, as well as of the anthropic impact. The natural input of plant, animal and microbial residues, adequate crop management practices, and organic amendments contribute to the conservation and possible increase of the SOM content, which may help mitigate the global warming through the reduction of CO_2 emissions.

The main aim of this session is to get together soil scientists who are trying to develop a better understanding of the structures, stabilization mechanisms, and functions of SOM, as well as of the benefits and limitations of recycling organic wastes as soil amendments. Special emphasis will be paid on the agricultural and environmental aspects related to the plant nutrient supply, soil structure formation, soil protection against degradation, pollutant fate, and C sequestration.