

BELGIUM : 1998 NATIONAL REPORT

(Incremental from 1997)

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No major changes took place in the existing solar research programs in Belgian universities (Liège, Leuven, Antwerp), at the Royal Meteorological Institute (space-based radiometry, SOHO/VIRGO) and the Institute of Space Aeronomy (Sun/Earth magnetosphere interactions).

On the other hand, several events and newly developed projects are worth mentioning in the Solar Physics Department of the Royal Observatory of Belgium :

- A new staff member : Dr. D. Berghmans from the Catholic University of Leuven.
- the Belgian expedition to the February 26, 1998 solar eclipse in Curacao was successful. It involved the photographic experiment already used for many eclipses since 1973, as well as an upgraded CCD camera experiment (increased image cadence : > 1 image/sec, total of 168 images, 24 polarisation angles, 7 exposure levels).
- In the context of EIT minor-activity studies, the SOHO JOP80 campaign was organised and executed successfully on May 13, 1998. Based on the high-cadence EIT shutterless mode, it involved 8 spaceborne and ground-based instruments.
- Creation of the so-called EIT "Christmas 96" movie, in High-Definition Television format (with 3D vision). This movie was prepared in collaboration with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and was first presented at the Spring-98 American Geophysical Union Meeting.
- Development of a local EIT archive in Brussels. Since January 98, various data sets were selected, pre-processed and distributed in response to requests from various European scientists.