

June 30, 2009

Prof. Paul R. Bown,
Secretary
International Commission on Stratigraphy
Department of Geological Sciences
University College London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT
UK

RE: Ratification of the definition of the base of Quaternary System/Period (and top of the Neogene System/Period), and redefinition of the base of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch (and top of the Pliocene Series/Epoch).

Dear Professor Bown,

This is to confirm the receipt of your Commission's request of June 2, 2009 for ratification of its recommendation that:

- 1) the base of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch be lowered such that the Pleistocene includes the Gelasian Stage/Age and its base is defined by the Monte San Nicola GSSP, which also defines the base of the Gelasian;
- 2) the base of the Quaternary System/Period, and thus the Neogene-Quaternary boundary, be formally defined by the Monte San Nicola GSSP and thus be coincident with the bases of the Pleistocene and Gelasian, and
- 3) with these definitions, the Gelasian Stage/Age be transferred from the Pliocene Series/Epoch to the Pleistocene.

I am pleased to report that these recommendations were approved by a majority vote of the IUGS Executive Committee on 29 June 2009.

Sincerely,

Prof. Alberto C. Riccardi
President
International Union of Geological Sciences

Cc: Stan Finney, President, ICS
Shanchi Peng, Vice President, ICS
IUGS EC