

Hans Fässler, Weiherweidstrasse 5, 9000 St.Gallen, Switzerland  
Hans Barth, Grand Rue 16, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

St.Gallen and Fribourg, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018

IAU General Secretary  
Dr. Piero Benvenuti  
IAU–UAI Secretariat  
98-bis Blvd Arago  
F–75014 Paris  
France

### **Encouraging Signal from the European Geosciences Union (EGU)**

Dear Sir,

You will by now have received our letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, containing the recourse against the ruling of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, by chairwoman Rita M. Schulz (working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature) concerning the renaming of lunar "Agassiz Promontory" (42.0°N 1.8°E). And you will also have received our e-mail with the same content as this letter.

Meanwhile, an encouraging signal has arrived from Prof. Dr. Jonathan Bamber, President of the European Geosciences Union (EGU), which might be suitable to encourage you in your decision.

We had petitioned the EGU to no longer award the "Louis-Agassiz-Medal" on account of the latter's extreme racism (see our letter plus annex enclosed).

In his e-mail dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, Prof. Bamber writes:

We recently had a Council meeting of EGU where a number of issues were discussed including the name of the award for the CR division of EGU. We have looked into the evidence in more detail and, in particular, some Swiss colleagues provided were able to provide

additional evidence based on some recent research undertaken on the life and views of Agassiz.

In the light of the up to date evidence that was available to us, we have decided that the name of the award is not appropriate and does not reflect the values of our organisation. As someone who has, on a number of occasions, contacted us regarding the name of the ward I thought I would let you know of this outcome. The medal committee has not made a final decision on the new name, but we anticipate that this will come into effect for 2019.

Hoping that this answer from the EGU might positively influence your decision in matters of our recourse, we remain

yours sincerely,

Hans Fässler (also on behalf of Hans Barth)