

## **CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHY - THE CENOZOIC TIME SCALE**

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In the Cenozoic - Erathem we are left with several historical and inadequate terminologies and terms like: TERTIARY and QUATERNARY and with a globally used stage system without the necessary global back-ground for global correlations.

A closer and non-emotional look to these so-called global stages and their chronostratigraphic boundaries and to the GSSP's of the Cenozoic Systems and Series boundaries defined and agreed lately by the ISC demonstrates the inconsistencies of these boundaries in their relation to the chronostratigraphic regulations and the chronostratigraphic dilemma we are facing by these facts.

To achieve a consistent Cenozoic Chronostratigraphic Time Scale following decisions are postulated and should be taken:

- (1) Final elimination of the 18th century terms „TERTIARY“ and „QUATERNARY“
- (2) Official subdivision of the CENOZOIC Erathem into a PALEOGENE and NEOGENE System
- (3) Definition and stratotypification of the Paleogene Series boundaries, the Paleocene-, Eocene- and Oligocene-boundaries and the Neogene Series boundaries, the Miocene-, Pliocene-, Pleistocene- and Holocene- boundaries by globally correlatable and acceptable GSSP's.
- (4) Subdivide the Paleogene and Neogene Series into officially accepted Subseries (Lower-, Middle- and Upper-Subseries), stratotypified by globally correlatable and acceptable GSSP's.
- (5) Provide by this chronostratigraphic Subseries concept the base for the correlation of the existing and useful regional stage concepts in the Cenozoic.
- (6) Accept the various Cenozoic Stage Systems in usage as regional stage concepts only, without any global interpretations and assumptions, since they primarily reflect by their original definition the geodynamic history of a regional area only.

Following these recommendations we would stabilize the Cenozoic Chronostratigraphic Time Scale and make it to a consistent and useful stratigraphic tool.