



## **Uncertainty information as a positive "added value" to long range and seasonal forecasts**

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The presentation will attempt to press home the message that uncertainty information proves its value already at a qualitative level. By theoretical considerations and practical examples it will show how, even in the extreme case of total uncertainty ("we haven't got a clue"), it is more optimal for the public and end-users to admit the difficulties rather than fall for the temptation of providing "a qualified guess".

Finally the point will be made that experience has shown that by communicating "uncertainty" in an active, skilful way (perhaps by rather talk in terms of a "difficult" than "uncertain" situation and never blaming the computer) will paradoxically enhance the forecasters' reputation in the eyes of the public.

Any amateur can deliver a confident sounding categorical weather forecast or climate outlook, but it takes an expert to confess with a slightly troubled expression that the weather situation is complicated but the most likely development is...