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PRESS RELEASE

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Geophysicist Mioara Mandea awarded DGG Emil Wiechert Medal

Mioara Mandea, geophysicist, member of the National Council of Astronomers and Physicists (CNAP) and head of the Science Coordination sub-directorate at CNES's Strategy Directorate, has been awarded the Emil Wiechert Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the German Geophysical Society DGG (Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft). This award goes every three to five years to a scientist who has accomplished outstanding advances in the field of geophysics, with only 22 laureates distinguished since its inception in 1955. Mioara Mandea is receiving the medal for "her exceptional scientific achievements in the field of geomagnetism and ground- and satellite-based measurement of potential fields" and her "innovative interdisciplinary work focused on the relationship between geomagnetism and gravimetry."

Mioara Mandea holds a PhD in geophysics from the University of Bucharest and a PhD in internal geophysics from the IGP Earth physics institute in Paris. Her research is centred on variations in Earth's magnetic field applied to investigation of the planet's deep inner structure, a discipline that has been completely transformed over the last three decades by Earth remote sensing from space. Mioara Mandea is responsible for a number of scientific advances in ground- and satellite-based observation of Earth's magnetic field and its interpretation to reveal the planet's inner structure. Among her most noteworthy contributions are her work on geomagnetic jerks—sudden changes in the magnetic field generated by Earth's core—and on decadal variations in the magnetic field and movements in the liquid inner core to gain a clearer picture of our planet's dynamo mechanism. Her research on complex processes at the core-mantle boundary using combined analysis of the magnetic and gravity fields draws on data from French and European space missions.

Mioara Mandea's other distinctions include the French Geological Society's Van Straelen Prize, the American Geophysical Union's International Award and the European Geosciences Union's Petrus Peregrinus Medal. She holds the rank of Knight of France's National Order of Merit, is a titular member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences and the Academia Europaea, an international member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and a corresponding member of the Bureau des Longitudes.

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