



## Save the hole world – by signing WD 66 until 4<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Sir or Madam,

we would like to ask you to support the underground. Caves – a world in the dark – are the most fragile ecosystem.

They are endangered by pollution, construction projects and lack of knowledge.

Once destroyed, damages stay for geological periods of time with wide consequences for the surface.

25% of the world's drinkable water supply (GUNN 2007) arrive out of cave areas. Caves are archaeological places of discovery where the history of mankind can be shown. They offer space to live for thousands of species in Europe, including such, who could survive the ice age in this special habitat. Because of the period of growth speleothemes and subsurface ice embedding are important climate archives.

The declaration WD 66 calls on the protection of caves as cultural, natural and environmental heritage. WD 66 is already published by Mikel Irujo, Rebecca Harms and Csaba Tabajdi.

The hole world needs the support from you and your parliamentary groups. By signing this written declaration you can open a way towards an integrative protection of caves, karst and their water systems to create a sustainable development and environmental protection.

It would be a great honour to welcome you at our information stand in the European Parliament from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Detailed information you can also get on our homepage [www.cavedeclaration.eu](http://www.cavedeclaration.eu) .

Many thanks for your support in advance

Christiane Grebe  
**Federation Speleologique Européenne FSE**  
 Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns  
**Union Internationale de Spéléologie UIS**