Organizing Committee:

The conference is organized by a joint team from the Scaldina cave archaeological center (Scaldina) and the “Service public de Wallonie” (SPW).

Kevin Di Modica, archaeologist (Scaldina)
Michel Toussaint, palaeoanthropologist (SPW)
Stéphane Pinson, geologist (SPW)
Dominique Bonjean, archaeologist (Scaldina)
Grégory Abrams, archaeozoologist (Scaldina)

With the logistic support of the “Cellule Events-DGOI” (SPW)

Scientific Committee:

Pierre Antoine (CNRS, France)
Nick Ashton (British Museum, Great Britain)
Pascal Bertran (INRAP, France)
Pascal Depaepe (INRAP, France)
Damien Flas (FNRS – Université de Liége, Belgium)
Paul Haesaerts (RBINS, Belgium)
Jean-Jacques Hublin (Max Planck Institute, Germany)
Fomi Le Bnm-Realens (MNHA, Luxembourg)
Jean-Luc Locht (INRAP, France)
Marie-Hélène Moncel (CNRS – MNHN, France)
Marcel Otte (Université de Liége, Belgium)
Jürgen Richter (Universität zu Köln, Germany)
Wim Roebroeks (Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands)
Veerle Rots (FNRS – Université de Liége, Belgium)
Patrick Semal (RBINS, Belgium)
Chris Stringer (British Museum, Great Britain)
Philip Van Peer (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)

INFORMATIONS:

Conference Location
Auditorium “Moulin de Beuze”, rue Moulin de Meuse 4, 5000 Namur, Belgium.

Conference Language
The conference will be held exclusively in English.

Field Trip
As the number of places is limited, reservation is required. Priority will be given according to the registration date.

Important Dates
Nov 1, 2013: Deadline for abstract submission
Jan 15, 2014: Notification of acceptance of lectures and posters
Feb 1, 2014: Second circular including final program

REGISTRATION:

If you would like to attend, please send back this form by e-mail at middelpalaeolithic@archeo2014.be.

Name: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________

Institutional affiliation: ____________________________

☐ I would like to attend the conference
  Fees: 80 € (regular), 40 € (students)
  Includes registration, abstract volume, field guide, coffee breaks and lunches. Method of payment will be given in the registration confirmation e-mail

☐ I would like to participate to the field trip on the 23rd subject to an extra-cost determined later according to the program of the day

☐ I would like to present a ☐ paper ☐ poster

entitled:

MIDDLE PALAEO LITHIC IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Namur (Belgium)

20.03 – 22.03 2014

Patrimoine

Scaldina, layer S: flakes reflected on core. © Scaldina cave archaeological center

Editeur responsable: Désiré Gom (directeur général du QAC SW)
Crée par: Karel Metis (Scaldina), Jan Luminet (SW)
North-west Europe is a key area to help deciphering Neanderthal societies in connection with their natural landscapes. The region presents various contexts where loessic, karstic, fluvial, lacustrine and coastal environments coexist. This area was the subject of important climatic contrasts, with environmental conditions fluctuating from interglacial forest to polar desert. Moreover, the diversity of the geological substratum defines the availability of various natural resources.

This conference aims to provide an up-to-date overview of the available documentation on the Middle Palaeolithic of north-west Europe and to discuss the current research problematics on Neanderthal behaviour in a multidisciplinary perspective.

Belgium lies at the border of two worlds: the great loessic plain in the north, the Ardennen-Eifel Palaeozoic massif in the south, including numerous caves. This territory therefore generated variability in human behaviour, particularly highlighted by the lithic resources management.

Besides, located in the heart of north-west Europe, Belgium acted as a crossroad, where influences from groups from both western and central Europe met and intermingled.

Conference (March the 20th-21st):
The conference wants to present multiple key aspects of the research on Middle Palaeolithic in north-west Europe. The integration of anthropological, archaeological and contextual data in an interdisciplinary spirit will be encouraged. The goal of this transversal approach is to decompartmentalize these disciplines so that the contribution of each actor can be appreciated within the larger field of archaeological problematics, such as cultural expressions, territorial management or population dynamics, all of it in a diachronic and transregional perspective.

The concerned geographical area is not limited to the loessic plain. It covers the north-western part of Europe, limited on the south by the Loire Valley, the Massif Central and the Alpine arc, and on the east by the Bohemian Massif and the Oder Valley. This wide geographical setting integrates into the discussion Middle Palaeolithic sites from various contexts and will particularly encourage a dialogue based on data from open-air and cave sites.

Chronologically speaking, the entire Middle Palaeolithic will be discussed from its older manifestations and roots in the Lower Palaeolithic up to the extinction of Neandertals and the shift to the Upper Palaeolithic.

Field trip (March the 22nd):
A field trip will be organized at Middle Palaeolithic Belgian key sites. A visit of Scladina cave is already planned (incl. the related exhibition “Neandertal l’Européen”).

Submissions of abstracts for podium and/or poster presentations are welcome. Inter-sites comparisons, regional or transregional synthesis and multidisciplinary approaches on an intra-site scale will be favoured. As the number of communications is limited, proposals that are not selected for a podium will be invited to be submitted in the form of a poster.

The lectures will be selected by the organizing committee with the help of the scientific committee.

Additional information
Duration of the talks: 15 min + 5 min questions.

Posters will be displayed during the entire duration of the conference in the reception hall. Abstracts of the posters will be presented in the abstract book.