

1981-2026 45 years SIDC retrospective meeting



Wednesday, 3 June 2026 - Friday, 5 June 2026

Observatoire

Scientific Programme

This meeting is organised into topical sessions. However—flexible as we are—we firmly believe that people matter more than session titles. If it suits you better to speak on a different day, or to sneak into a session that doesn't quite match your official topic, that is perfectly fine. As long as it is about you—or about our favourite star—it will be more than welcome!

Opening

In many self-respecting meetings, it is customary to invite senior management to deliver lengthy & boring opening remarks. That will not be possible here as our Director is not only an excellent speaker, but also a former SIDC colleague. Moreover, there is a rich history to reflect upon—extending well beyond the 45 years since the creation of SIDC. In fact, solar physics has been part of ROB's scientific heritage for most of the century preceding that milestone.

History & Ground based data

The primary mission of an observatory is, above all, to observe. The historic heart of SIDC is rooted in the Uccle Solar Equatorial Table (USET), the Humain Radio Observatory station, and SILSO, the World Data Center for the International Sunspot Number. Generations of dedicated observers—past and present—have ensured that the data continue to flow faithfully, every time the Sun rises.

Space Weather

As a federal scientific institute, it is not quite enough to “just” do research—however fascinating we may find it ourselves. We are also expected to deliver something society can actually use! That is where space weather services enter the stage. Turning research into 24/7 operational services has not exactly been a leisurely stroll from paper writing to prediction writing. It has taken persistence, creativity, and more than a little stubbornness. But thanks to the efforts of both our predecessors and today's team, these services have grown from ambitious ideas into polished operational jewels.

Space Instruments

Our most expensive “toys,” of course, are space telescopes. They tend to require an entire career to design and build—and nearly another one to operate and fully analyse the treasure troves of data they provide.

It will be a real pleasure to meet again the giants on whose shoulders the current generation proudly stands.

Splinters & Fun

We are not entirely sure yet what this session will look like — because it depends on you. We could break into smaller groups for splinter discussions, dive into some deep science, or simply enjoy relaxed social conversations — whatever you prefer.

We might even organize an SIDC quiz, or take advantage of the season with a late-spring walk in the woods. All suggestions are warmly welcome!

BBQ

This BBQ is organized for all ROB employees and all participants of the SIDC2026 Retrospective meeting. It is your chance to also meet former colleagues of other departments of ROB. Even for a BBQ, you can submit a contribution. Maybe you want to bring a toast?