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**International Union of Geological Sciences
Commission on Stratigraphy**

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EARLY CARBONIFEROUS STRATIGRAPHY

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MEETING PROGRAM

LATE DEVONIAN - EARLY CARBONIFEROUS MIOSPORES FROM THE MENEN BOREHOLE, NAMUR SYNCLINORIUM, BELGIUM

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Samples from the Menen Borehole (West Flanders, Belgium) provide new datation based on miospores of the late Devonian and early Carboniferous of the western part of the Namur Synclinorium. Despite the discontinuity and the heterogeneity (cores and cuttings) of sampling, sediments of middle Famennian, uppermost Famennian (Strunian) and late middle to late Tournaisian are recognized.

Assemblages contain abundant and well diversified miospores. The state of preservation of the miospores is fairly good with material yellow to brown allowing easy identification. It indicates that the coalification level is much lower here than in nearby Dinant Synclinorium.

The oldest assemblage corresponds to the *gracilis-famenensis* (GF) Zone of middle Famennian age, with well documented *Grandispora famenensis*.

In the next assemblage, the joint occurrence of *Retispora lepidophyta*, *Verrucosisporites nitidus* and *Spelaeotriletes obtusus* indicates the highest level in the *R. lepidophyta* range Zone. It corresponds to the highest part of the Famennian, very near, but below the Devonian/Carboniferous limit. This is the first record of such a level in the Namur Synclinorium where the "Strunian" beds are often lacking.

The highest assemblages correspond to the *pretiosus-clavata* (PC) Zone of late-middle to late Tournaisian age. This last result is rather intriguing because the lithology is similar with the Hastarian Lmst. of middle Tournaisian age. The implication of these data on the regional geology is emphasized.