

Little Dome C

Beyond EPICA Oldest Ice Drilling Site (75.29917 °S, 122.44516 °E)

Situation Report #54, 9th January 2026

Personnel @LDC:

Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Iben Koldtoft (UCPH), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Barbara Seth (UNIBE, PI in the field), Henrique Traeger (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

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Weather at LDC: sunny, windy, cold

Meteo at DC 6:00 pm: T = -26.7 °C, Wind speed = 9.8 kt, Windchill T = -38 °C, Humidity = 73 %



Yesterday evening after dinner, we spontaneously decided to pack all the Zarges boxes on top of the Sfusi sledge for helping Gianluca and Sergio so they didn't need to do it very early this morning. We managed to get all the boxes on the sledge and only had to add the box containing the ice samples (or rather sediment-ice mixed core pieces) this morning. Around a quarter to eight in the morning, Gianluca left with the PB pulling the sledge to bring all the material to Concordia.

During the filter run in the early morning, the generator (SDMO1) switched off several times and restarted itself. Sergio swapped to the other generator just after breakfast. However, the first SDMO seems to have a more severe problem that needs to be solved by Concordia.

We again did several filter runs today. The chips and slush content of the bore hole seems to be persistent. However, we work ourselves – or rather the filtering setup of the drill – deeper and deeper into the hole and will eventually have a clean hole.

Today, Philippe was our chef, and he prepared a phantastic lunch and dinner for us. Meanwhile, the common tent was used as a bakery: Iben was preparing cookie dough – some of it may be baked, the majority will not survive the dough status ;) Barbara was baking Züpfe (a typical Swiss bread) and Katrin was preparing pizza dough for Saturday.





The Sfusi packing crew and the PB heading for Concordia. Photos by B. Seth and I. Koldtoft





Iben and Barbara decoupling the core barrel from the super banger after a filter run. Photo by H. Traeger



Iben's cookie dough and Barbara's Züpfe. Photos by M. Lahuec



CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 9.1.2026

