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Mean sea surface elevation in the North Atlantic, showing the influence of ocean floor topography and the flow of cold and warm currents on surface levels. This image was constructed from data from the radar altimeter of the European Space Agency’s ERS-1 oceanographic satellite, a good example of European scientific collaboration. See page 1742. Beginning on page 1733, this special issue features News reports, Perspectives, and a Policy Forum on science in Europe. [Image: Carel Wakkers]

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