

More intense cooperation between EuCheMS and ECTN

In October 2014, at the annual EuCheMS General Assembly, the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) Association was unanimously approved to become a supporting member of EuCheMS. This was made possible by the new EuCheMS constitution, which is in force since its recent approval by the Belgium authorities. This further step in cooperation between the two most representative chemistry associations in Europe was strongly sought after by both ECTN and EuCheMS governance.

ECTN was founded in 2002 to implement and to give continuity to education programmes of skills and knowledge in chemistry at the university level pioneered and developed over six years of European network activities (1996 onwards). It comprises 120 institutional members, including higher education institutions and national chemical societies from 31 European countries plus eight societies worldwide.

By means of the Virtual Education Community Committee, ECTN provides certification of achievement at various levels of competences in chemistry by printed and electronic means. The Label Committee sets, monitors and renews quality goals in higher education in chemistry, assesses quality standards and provides quality accreditation of higher education courses to individual institutions by awarding Eurolabels (Eurobachelor, Euromaster and Eurodoctorate labels).

One of the reasons for the ECTN participation in EuCheMS is to open the route to more intense cooperation, covering in particular the area of higher education in Europe and strengthening the chemistry education-policy interface. Both parties agreed to continue working along this route, by first setting up a Memorandum of Understanding between the two associations as a base for providing a wider frame for their



New supporting EuCheMS member: The European Chemistry Thematic Network Association.

policy and scientific activity and quality validation in chemistry. Accordingly such a Memorandum of Understanding has been very recently approved by both ECTN Administrative Council on 7 February and EuCheMS Executive Board on 13 February (signed by both presidents at the ECTN General Assembly in Ljubljana in April). It foresees mutual recognition and endorsement of a number of activities such as conferences and meetings, public consultations and policy issues, the ECTN product "EChem Test" as well as the chemistry quality Eurolabels awarded by ECTN and its contractors and the EuCheMS European Chemist professional designation.

The following actions have been agreed: joint messages and strategies for dissemination of policy statements, joint policy statements, joint replies to consultations from the European Commission, synergy on projects within European and other grant and project calls, joint representation in other European forums and organisations, distribution of their respective newsletters, etc. Besides reciprocal membership, both organisations also decided to set up a task group with the remit of studying the modalities of extending the cooperation.

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Chemistry for the future

The conference "Chemistry for the future of Europe – energy, food, environment" took place on 25 and 26 November 2014 in Rome and was organised by the Società Chimica Italiana (SCI), the Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici (CNC) and EuCheMS on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The conference with about one hundred participants was opened by the presidents of CNC, SCI and EuCheMS, Armando Zingales, Raffaele Riccio and David Cole-Hamilton, respectively. Nicola Armaroli (Istituto ISOF/CNR, Bologna, Italy), Alexander B. Zehnder (Alberta Water Research Institute, Edmonton, Canada) and Irena Vovk (National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia) gave introductory lectures on energy, water and food perspectives. The lectures were followed by a round table with Luigi Ambrosio (CNR), Riccardo Basosi (Italian Representative Horizon 2020 Energy EU Programme, University of Siena), Roberto Morabito (ENEA) and Tomaso Munari (CNC). The topics of energy water and food were then further explored by Gabriele Centi (University of Messina), Gianluca Farinola (University of Bari), Fabrizio Passarini (University of Bologna) and Elisabetta Collini (University of Padova). The second day of the conference was devoted to international labeling of food and the quality of analytical results.

One day after the congress conclusions were discussed at the Italian Senate, with particular emphasis on future developments under the Horizon 2020 programme and chemical risks in waste management.

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EuCheMS Year Book 2015

The EuCheMS Year Book 2015 is in the release process. It contains key info on the many activities of EuCheMS, its divisions and working parties and will be available at www.euchems.eu.



Solar-driven chemistry

One of the main objectives of EuCheMS is developing future visions in chemical research. This was emphasized by the EuCheMS Executive Board in its February meeting.

Following the advice of a small expert group, EuCheMS will develop a long-term perspective on solar-driven chemistry. The planned document will focus on how to use sunlight to arrive at new chemicals over a time frame of 20 to 30 years. Conversion of CO₂ will be included but other possibilities will also be considered. The state-of-the art will be reviewed and gaps in knowledge will be identified. A brainstorming workshop with open and unbiased discussions is planned as a first step. Experts from all areas of chemistry and neighbouring disciplines are invited to express their views. Ultimately a white paper will be produced for dissemination to the public, politicians and the scientific community. EuCheMS invites all persons interested in this activity to contact the EuCheMS secretariat.

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Calls for EuCheMS Awards

The EuCheMS community is invited to present proposals for both the EuCheMS Lecture 2015 and the EuCheMS Award for Service 2015.

The EuCheMS Lecture serves to strengthen the image of EuCheMS and of European chemistry, promoting scientific cooperation among chemists in Europe. The Lecturer should be a prominent chemist from a European country.

The EuCheMS Award for Service acknowledges outstanding commitment with regard to fostering chemistry and molecular sciences in Europe and the goals of EuCheMS. In addition to recognized service to EuCheMS, this may include activities in governmental, non-governmental or funding organisations, publicity-related activities, etc.

Deadline for submitting nominations is 30 June 2015. Detailed information and nomination forms are available for download at www.euchems.eu/awards.

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EuCheMS Congress 2016

The 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress will take place in Seville, Spain, on 11 to 15 September 2016. Some outstanding speakers have already confirmed their attendance, including five Nobel Laureates: Ada Yonah, Richard Schrock, Aaron Ciechanover, Harold Kroto and Jean-Marie Lehn. Avelino Corma, Spain's most awarded chemist and recipient of the 2014 Prince of Asturias Award, has also confirmed his attendance as plenary lecturer. The scientific committee is fully appointed. Its 13 prestigious members are assigned to specific themes.

A communications manual, which contains congress logos, banners, a video and more, is available at <http://euchems-seville2016.eu/euchems-downloads>. EuCheMS member societies and other interested parties are encouraged to use the materials.

On 5 February Peter Edwards, chair of the scientific committee, and Carlos Negro, co-chair of the organising committee, visited the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) headquarters in Frankfurt. The meeting had two goals: on the one



Congress organisers Angela Lopez Berrocal (left), Carlos Negro (second from left) and Peter Edwards (fourth from left) with GDCh representatives. (Photo: K. J. Schmitz)

hand to share organisational matters (communications strategy, sponsoring and exhibition affairs) and on the other hand to discuss the scientific programme development and the role of the EuCheMS divisions and national societies. The suggestions made by GDCh representatives were very useful for the organisers, who plan to visit other European societies this year.

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Policy News

Public positions recently taken by EuCheMS

During the past few months, EuCheMS has presented the united voice of European chemists through three letters sent to the European Institutions.

Following the latest report from the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change, EuCheMS sent a letter to Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, on the reduction of greenhouse effect gases. Schulz replied by thanking EuCheMS for its efforts and by mentioning the resolution that the Parliament took to the Climate Conference in Lima where the European Parliament calls for ambitious binding EU targets for 2030.

Additionally, Juncker replied to a EuCheMS letter on the end of the European Commis-

sion's Chief Scientific Adviser position. He stated his commitment to the role of science in decision-making and informed that the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, will soon present options on how to better institutionalise independent scientific advice to the Commission. Finally, EuCheMS has published an open letter to President Juncker expressing its deepest concerns with the reallocation of Horizon 2020 funds, which include funding to the European Research Council, to a new European Investment Fund, a plan which will imperil the future of European research, innovation and industry. For letters and answers see www.euchems.eu.

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The EuCheMS Executive Board

The EuCheMS Newsletter introduces the EuCheMS Executive Board members. This issue goes on with Saskia van der Vies (The Netherlands) and Ehud Keinan (Israel).

Saskia M. van der Vies is professor of biochemistry at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She is the chairman of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (KNCV) and former chairman of the Netherlands Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Netherlands Biotechnological Society and the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) and is co-founder of the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award. Van der Vies' research group investigates the role of protein (mis)folding in several brain diseases. Her research is aimed at understanding the disease pathologies and at identifying potential drug targets and biomarkers for neurodegeneration.



Ehud Keinan is professor at the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, and adjunct professor at the Department of Molecular Biology and the Skaggs Institute of Chemical Biology, The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. He is President of the Israel Chemical Society and editor-in-chief of the *Israel Journal of Chemistry*. Keinan received a PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1977 and was a Postdoc with Barry M. Trost at the University of Wisconsin from 1977 to 1980. Keinan's research interests include organic synthesis, biocatalysis with antibodies and with synthetic enzymes, molecular-computing devices, synthetic receptors, molecular containers, peroxide-based explosives and drug discovery. Since 2010 he is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



kjs/EuCheMS

Foundation of the French Young Chemists' Network

In order to become more visible at a national and international level the Clubs de Jeunes (regional young chemists' networks) of the 15 regional sections of the Société Chimique de France (SCF, French Chemical Society) founded the Réseau des Jeunes Chimistes de la SCF (RJ-SCF, French Young Chemists' Network) on 18 July 2014. The RJ-SCF was officially granted by the SCF Executive Board on 2 December 2014. At the beginning of 2015, the RJ-SCF represented more than one-third of the SCF members. This national network is composed by students, PhD students, postdocs and researchers under 35 years of age, working in academia and industry.

The RJ-SCF will be involved in several activities in 2015, such as the National Meeting of the Society (SCF'15), especially to promote chemistry to the general public and present the network to young participants. It will also organise some regional scientific meetings and projects for students from primary to high



Réseau des Jeunes Chimistes
Société Chimique de France

The result of the logo competition.

school level. The logo competition organised by RJ-SCF during last September and October attracted a strong participation of young chemists throughout France. Another important objective of the RJ-SCF is to work with other young chemists' networks, particularly via the European Young Chemists' Network. In addition to its website, RJ-SCF is on the social networks Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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EuCheMS' strategic planning

The last day of the General Assembly meeting in Torun, Poland, in October 2014 was mostly devoted to a facilitated session on strategic planning. A lively discussion involving members of the Executive Board, the General Assembly and some division chairs identified four main areas for immediate further development followed by the proposal to set up task groups for each area.

A task group chaired by Executive Board member Saskia van der Vies concentrates on the relationship of central EuCheMS with member societies and their individual members. This task group will also look at how diversity can be embedded in all EuCheMS activities. A second task group chaired by Executive Board member and chair of the Division for Physical Chemistry, Eckart Rühl, pays attention to the relationship between EuCheMS and its divisions and working parties. The vision of EuCheMS – what it should be doing and how it should be staffed – is in the focus of a task group chaired by EuCheMS President David Cole-Hamilton, and EuCheMS Treasurer Franco De Angelis heads a task group on how new initiatives will be funded. These task groups will produce interim reports in June and final reports for the General Assembly meeting in Vienna in October. We would very much value your input. Please feel free to contact the chairs of the task groups if you have comments, questions or ideas.

One immediate way in which you can help involves lobbying your local Members of the European Parliament (MEP). Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, has proposed that significant sums of money should be transferred from the research budget to the Strategic Infrastructure Fund. This proposal will soon be debated in the European Parliament. We have written to President Juncker to urge him to find alternative sources for the funding of infrastructure. You can download the letter at www.euchems.eu/news. If you support the letter, please send copies to your local MEP urging them to vote against any reduction in the research budget.

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Employability of chemists



At the graduation ceremony of the Euromaster programme "Measurement Science in Chemistry".

A workshop on the employability of chemists took place on 12 December 2014 in Brussels. Reiner Salzer presented a first look at the European survey on the employability of chemists. His presentation was complemented by talks of EuCheMS President David Cole-Hamilton about how good chemists can get good jobs and Francesco De Angelis, President of the European Chemistry Thematic Network, on European higher education aspects. Sophie Wilmet from the European Chemical Industry Council CEFIC presented the perspective of the chemical industry. The workshop was chaired by Philip Taylor, European Commission's Joint Research Centre, and followed by the graduation ceremony of the Euromaster programme "Measurement Science in Chemistry", given by a consortium of nine universities. Since 2008 about 280 students have graduated. A summer school is the core of this programme. The 2015 summer school will take place in Puławy, Poland, and is open for students from universities of the consortium and others interested in learning how to run a laboratory according to ISO/EN 17025.

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Expo 2015 in Milan

Expo 2015 will take place in Milan, Italy, from 1 May to 31 October 2015. The main topic will be "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". EuCheMS and the Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici (CNC) believe that EXPO 2015 will be an exceptional opportunity to raise awareness to the importance of chemical sciences in society. A series of EuCheMS-CNC talks will take place at the Expo EU Pavilion. For information visit www.euchems.eu. *kjs/EuCheMS*

Events 2015

- 14 – 16 May 2015, Bochum, Germany**
114th General Assembly of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry
www.bunsen.de/bunsentagung2015
- 20 – 22 May 2015, Karlsruhe, Germany**
Energy Science Technology Conference 2015
www.est-conference.com
- 10 – 12 June 2015, Lisbon, Portugal**
6th European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences, <http://6eccls.eventos.chemistry.pt>
- 14 – 18 June 2015, Gargnano, Italy**
International Summer School on Organic Synthesis „A. Corbella“, www.corbellasummerschool.unimi.it/
- 15 – 17 June 2015, Seville, Spain**
VIII International School on Organometallic Chemistry „Marcial Moreno Manas“
<http://school2015.orfeo-cinqua.es>
- 22 – 24 June 2015, Aveiro, Portugal**
CoCoaTea 2015 – Third International Congress on Cocoa, Coffee and Tea, www.cocotea2015.com/
- 29 June – 3 July 2015, Stockholm, Sweden**
31st Annual International Society of Chemical Ecology Meeting, www.isce2015.com
- 4 – 9 July 2015, Lille, France**
SCF'15: Chemistry and Energy Transition
www.societechimiquedefrance.fr/congres/scf-15
- 5 – 9 July 2015, Bratislava, Slovakia**
21st European Conference on Organometallic Chemistry, www.eucomcxxi.eu
- 11 – 25 July 2015, Puławy, Poland**
Summer School of Euromaster Measurement Science in Chemistry, www.msc-euromaster.eu
- 12 – 16 July 2015, Lisboa, Portugal**
19th European Symposium of Organic Chemistry
<http://esocix.eventos.chemistry.pt/>
- 14 – 17 July 2015, Mezzocorona, Italy**
In Vino Analytica Scientia 2015
<http://eventi.fmach.it/IVAS2015>
- 23 – 26 August 2015, Vienna, Austria**
15th European Conference on Solid State Chemistry
- 30 August – 2 September 2015, Dresden, Germany**
WIFO 2015, GDCh Chemistry Forum, www.wifo2015.de
- 31 August 2015 – 3 September 2015, Fulda, Germany**
10th European Conference on Computational Chemistry, www.euco-cc-2015.org
- 6 – 10 September 2015, Bordeaux, France**
EuroAnalysis 2015, www.euroanalysis2015.com
- 9 – 12 September 2015, Aveiro, Portugal**
Chemical Biography in the 21st Century
<http://10ichc-2015.web.ua.pt>
- 13 – 17 September 2015, Beaune, France**
6th EuCheMS Conference on Nitrogen Ligands
www.nligands2015.com/
- 14 – 18 September 2015, Catania, Sicily, Italy**
1st European Conference on Physical and Theoretical Chemistry
- 20 – 24 September 2015, Kalamata, Greece**
9th International Conference on Instrumental Methods of Analysis, www.ima2015.teikal.gr
- 21 – 25 September 2015, Gdansk, Poland**
58th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Polish Chemical Society, <http://ptchem2015.ug.edu.pl>
- 22 – 25 September 2015, Leipzig, Germany**
15th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, www.icce2015.org
- 4 – 7 October 2015, Lisbon, Portugal**
2nd EuCheMS Congress on Green and Sustainable Chemistry, <http://web.ist.utl.pt/~jnlopes/2EUGSC>
- 14 – 16 October 2015, Madrid, Spain**
Euro Food Chem, www.ictan.csic.es/eurofoodchem2015

EuCheMS Newsletter



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