

Dear Readers,



Europe is composed of many countries of very diverse size, with different cultures, languages, social and political systems. Each country has its own chemical society (sometimes more than one) and additional non-profit professional organisations, with their own publications, conferences and activities. The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) wants to bring European chemists together, and its registration in Belgium as an "Association internationale sans but lucratif" is aimed at providing a legal framework that can operate in a sustainable fashion to help to increase European interaction in the field of chemical and molecular sciences.

EuCheMS puts European chemistry as an entity on the map, very much as the American Chemical Society does for its continent. It aims to be a voice for chemistry in Europe, both inside and outside the European Union. In August of this year, EuCheMS will run its 1st European Chemistry Congress in Budapest, to gather chemists from across Europe and overseas in a single venue. It will be a showcase of chemistry in Europe but it will also provide a real chance for communication, interaction, innovation and starting of new projects. The Congress, taken together with many other initiatives (including the

Newsletter), is intended to create a more coherent chemical community in Europe.

In Brussels we need to speak one voice, otherwise chemistry could be bypassed. European chemists have to develop their own field and generate new knowledge in core chemistry. However, they must also pay attention to new emerging chemistry, especially at the interfaces with physics and biology; such interface areas are becoming more and more important.

EuCheMS must assess the direction chemistry will be taking during the next decades, promote the views of the chemical and molecular sciences community within key bodies of the European Parliament and Commission, and negotiate at all levels emerging legislation, regulation and initiatives that may impact the chemical science community.

European chemistry is marching forward and the launching of the Newsletter can greatly assist in this process. The Newsletter, prepared and produced by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society), will initially be published four times a year and will report on the activities of EuCheMS and its Divisions and Working Parties. In addition, it will inform about developments on the European level that are relevant for the chemical and molecular sciences. We are indebted to the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Ernst Guggolz, editor-in-chief of *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*, and Alexander Lawson for the enthusiasm they have put in this initiative.

Warm thanks to all contributors, and to everyone: enjoyable reading!

Giovanni Natle
President of the European Association for
Chemical and Molecular Sciences

Welcome to the EuCheMS Newsletter!

At its last General Assembly in Nicosia/Cyprus the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) decided to establish a EuCheMS



Newsletter. This newsletter will be the prime source of communication between the EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties, the Executive Committee and other EuCheMS bodies on the one side and you, the members of the EuCheMS member organisations on the other side. In addition the newsletter will report on developments and initiatives at the political level, relevant to the chemical and molecular sciences. In particular it will be a source of information about chemistry related activities emerging from the European Union, such as the research framework programs, the European Research Council, the SusChem Technology Platform and themes such as the new chemistry legislature (REACH) and related topics. The newsletter will offer the individual members of the EuCheMS member societies an overview of what EuCheMS is doing for their benefit and the benefit of chemistry in Europe and will provide a genuine European perspective.

As decided in Nicosia, the newsletter will be produced and coordinated by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society). It will initially appear four times a year with at least four pages per issue. The overall coordination rests with Alexander Lawson who will be supported by the editorial staff of the GDCh membership magazine *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*.

If you have comments or want to get in touch with the newsletter team, please send an email to Alexander Lawson (a.lawson@euchems.de).

Wolfram Koch
GDCh Executive Director



Photo: Bayer

ERA Chemistry awards

ERA-Chemistry, a co-operative venture supported within the European Commission's Framework Programme 6, includes national science organisations from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland that seek to develop a European funding instrument for the chemical sciences. A first call for proposals resulted in nine being selected for funding by a panel of European experts. The long term ambition of the network is to establish a European Research Area for the chemical sciences.
www.erachemistry.net

EuChemS Divisions, Working Parties and Committees

Divisions and Working Parties in EuChemS represent specific subject areas and are coordinated by the Executive Committee (24 members), which in turn represents the EuChemS General Assembly, from 50 National Societies.

The current Divisions and Working Parties (WP) are:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Chemical Education
- Chemistry and the Environment
- Chemistry in Life Sciences
- Electrochemistry
- Food Chemistry
- Organometallic Chemistry
- WP Chemistry in Microsystems
- WP Computational Chemistry
- WP History of Chemistry
- WP Inorganic Chemistry
- WP Nuclear and Radiochemistry

Further Committees include the ProChemE Standing Committee (educational, professional and ethical issues) and the European Chemist Registration Board (maintains and awards the designation "European Chemist" as a common standard across Europe).

Details of the Divisions and Working Parties may be found at www.euchems.org/Divisions/

European Technology Platform "Food for life"

European Technology Platforms, ETPs, are initiatives of the European Commission to stimulate industrial innovation. The intention is to unite stakeholders in a specific economic sector into a public-private partnership to better define the activities required. The goals are to first develop a "road map" addressing key challenges, and then to put it into practice so as to stimulate growth and thus benefit both employment and consumers in the community.

The Technology Platform "Food for life" (www.ciaa.be) involves chemists in six areas of food science. Recently, expert groups met to define thematic research requirements, and the resultant "road map" (Stakeholder Strategic Research Agenda, SSRA) will be delivered to the European Commission to inform the agenda of Framework Programme 7 (2007–2013).

The ETP Board is chaired by Peter van Bladeren (Research Director, Nestlé) and its Secretary is Daniela Israeliwichi (Confederation of Food and Drink Organisations of Eu-



Photo: CIAA

rope, CIAA). The support and commitment of all food chain stakeholders across all of Europe is needed to maximise the impact of the ETP "Food for life". The SSRA "road map" will therefore be available for national-, regional- and web consultation until early 2007.

Further information on ETP "Food for life" is available from Willem de Vos (willem.devos@wur.nl) or Roger Fenwick (Secretary EuChemS Food Chemistry Division, roger.fenwick@bbsrc.ac.uk).

Working Parties

The Working Party on Chemistry in Microsystems currently has eleven members representing nine countries and covers a broad range of chemical and biochemical interests. To date the main interest of the Working Party focuses on micro reactor and "lab on a chip" methodology, but the Working Party is keen to hear from people with other areas of interest in this growing subject area. In order to stimulate current interests and welcome new collaborators the Working Party is planning a special semi-



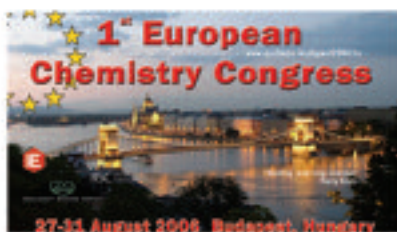
nar on the afternoon of 30th August at the 1st European Chemistry Congress entitled "The application of micro- and nanofluidics to (bio-) chemical analysis and processing".
Steve Haswell, Chairman of the Working Party on Chemistry in Microsystems
s.j.haswell@hull.ac.uk

The Working Party on Computational Chemistry (WPCC) is devoted to promoting research and education in computational chemistry. The WPCC currently has delegates from 19 member societies of EuChemS. The main activity of WPCC is to organise conferences and workshops on computational chemistry, but the working party is also active in the development of European Masters- and Ph.D. programmes in theoretical and computational chemistry.
Tore Brinck, Chairman of the WPCC
tore@physchem.kth.se

Chemists meet in Hungary

The 1st European Chemistry Congress (Budapest, 27th to 31st August 2006) will undoubtedly be the major chemistry event of the year in Europe. Besides the six plenary lectures delivered by Nobel laureates (Paul J. Crutzen, Jean-Marie Lehn, George A. Olah, John E. Walker, Kurt Wüthrich, Ahmed H. Zewail), the meeting will run in parallel sessions covering 17 Special Topic Symposia:

- New Developments in Theoretical and Computational Chemistry
- Cutting Edge Spectroscopy
- New Concepts and Methods in Catalysis
- Frontiers in Supramolecular Chemistry
- New Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry
- 3D Chemical Imaging in Analysis
- Materials and Nano-Materials for Devices
- Environmental Chemistry
- Chemistry, Food and Health
- Chemistry Meets Biomolecules
- Teaching Chemistry
- Green and Sustainable Chemistry and Processes



- Polymer Architecture – From Structure to Functional Control
- New Frontiers in Organic Synthesis
- Novel Multifunctional Ligands in Coordination Chemistry
- Structure and Function of Biomolecules
- Nuclear- and Radiochemistry

Prior to and after the conference a series of satellite events will be organised, a list of which is available at the conference website. The European Chemistry Congress will be held every two years. The second Congress will take place in Turin (Italy) in September 2008.

www.euchems-budapest2006.hu

EuCheMS Award

In recognition of his contributions to European cooperation Reto Battaglia will receive the EuCheMS Award for Service during the 1st European Chemistry Congress.



Reto Battaglia has made an exceptional contribution to the transformation of the former Federation of European Chemical Societies (Fecs) into EuCheMS. A Past President of Fecs and a member of the EuCheMS Executive Committee, Reto Battaglia has also held office as Chair of the Fecs Food Chemistry Division. He is the Director of Swiss Quality Testing Services, the quality control laboratories owned by Migros. He is a member of the Board of the Swiss Chemical Society and lectures at ETH Zurich.

EuCheMS Lecture

Dieter Seebach will deliver the 2006 EuCheMS Lecture on "Do beta-peptides have a biomedical potential?" at the 1st European Chemistry

Congress. The EuCheMS Lecture forms part of the symposium *New frontiers in medicinal chemistry*. Dieter Seebach is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at ETH Zurich. The EuCheMS Lecture honours outstanding achievements by a European chemist. It rotates among EuCheMS member societies and is delivered at a scientific event outside the lecturer's own country.

Young Chemist Award

On behalf of EuCheMS, several Younger Chemists representatives from different European chemical societies (Muriel Hissler/SFC, Stefan Picker/GDCh, Bruno Pignataro/SCI, Clare Viney/RSC, Tamas Kovacs/MKE) have organised a competition for the 2006 European Young Chemist Award. A number of finalists will deliver a talk at the European Young Chemists Award Competition Session during the 1st European Chemistry Congress. A panel of judges will then decide on the winners. The Italian Chemical Society has sponsored the medals. The gold medal winner will receive 1800 Euro, the two silver medal winners will each receive 800 Euro.

African Societies

Simon Campbell, President of the RSC, delivered congratulations from the EuCheMS President Giovanni Natile to the President of the new Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC), Temechegn Engida, at the inaugural event in Addis Ababa in February. In wishing FASC every success, Natile stressed the promotion of the chemical sciences by worldwide collaboration and creating educational opportunities for young people.

The nascent ERC

The creation of a European Research Council (ERC) took a major step forward with the EU Scientific Council, but the final structure of the ERC is still unclear. The ERC should be operational in 2007. The Initiative for Science in Europe, a platform of European learned societies and scientific organisations, urges the ERC budget to be at least 1 to 2 billion Euro p.a. for the seven-year Framework Programme.

www.initiative-science-europe.org

A new legal status for EuCheMS

EuCheMS has signed an agreement with the European Chemical Industry Council (CERIC) which will strengthen the existing excellent cooperation between the two European organisations. In support of the new legal status of EuCheMS, confirmed by Royal Decree in Belgium in March, EuCheMS will have its registered office in the CERIC headquarters. "The agreement will strengthen relationships between industry and academia", said Alain Perroy, Director General of CERIC, who signed the agreement together with Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS President. Following the Royal Decree, EuCheMS has the status of an "Association internationale sans but lucratif" (international non-profit making association).



EuCheMS has signed an cooperation agreement with CERIC: Reto Battaglia, Evelyn McEwan, Alain Perroy, Giovanni Natile, Colin Humphris (from left).



EuChemS Newsletter

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EuChemS is registered as "Association internationale sans but lucratif" (AISBL, international non-profit association)
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Newsletter Coordinator

Alexander Lawson is an organic chemist, born and educated in Scotland, but has worked in Germany for over thirty years, principally in Information Science applied to organic chemistry. He is known as the inventor of the Lawson Number in the Beilstein Database, and was instrumental in the creation of the CrossFire system. Alexander Lawson is currently Director of R&D at Elsevier MDL (Frankfurt), is an IUPAC Fellow and a member of the GDCh.

Contact: a.lawson@euchems.de



Alexander Lawson

Events

4 – 8 June, Lisboa/Portugal

Healthy Buildings 2006, paginas.fe.up.pt/hb2006/html/hb2006.html

11 – 16 June, Bratislava/Slovakia

Advanced Polymeric Materials,
www.upolber.sav.sk/

9 – 13 July, Bergen/Norway

EuChem Conference on Organic Free Radicals,
www.euchem-radicals.uib.no/

30 July – 4 August, Karlsruhe/Germany

Humic Substances – Linking Structure to Functions,
www.rz.uni-karlsruhe.de/~ihss2006/

24 – 26 August, Szeged/Hungary

2nd International Szent-Györgyi Symposium,
www.jgyt.u-szeged.hu/~eu6sci.org

27 – 31 August, Budapest/Hungary

1st European Chemistry Congress,
www.euchems-budapest2006.hu/

31 August – 3 September, Gödöllő/Hungary

History of the Food Chain: From Agriculture to Consumption and Waste,
www.chemhistory2006.mke.org.hu

3 – 7 September, Tale/Slovakia

6th European Conference on Computational Chemistry,
www.fns.uniba.sk/~eucoc6/index.html

10 – 13 September, Ohrid/Macedonia

5th International Conference of the Chemical Societies of the South-East European Countries (ICOSEC 5) & The XIX Congress of the Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia,
www.hemija.net/icossec5/registration.php

10 – 15 September, Dresden/Germany

1st International IUPAC Conference on Green-Sustainable Chemistry,
www.gdch.de/vas/tagungen/tg/5559.htm

10 – 15 September, Wrocław/Poland

2nd Workshop Modelling & Design of Molecular Materials,
www.mml.ch.pwr.wroc.pl/workshop/

13 – 15 September, Oxford/UK

10th International Symposium on Environmental Radiochemical Analysis,
www.rsc.org/era2006

16 – 22 September, Hammamet/Tunisia

EuChem Conference on Molten Salts & Ionic Liquids, luti.polytech.univ-mrs.fr/EUCHEM2006/

29 September – 1 October, Lund/Sweden

EuChem Conference on RNA Chemistry meets Biology, agneta@chemsoc.se

9 – 12 October, Stuttgart/Germany

Pigments in Food IF 2006,
pigmentsinfood2006.unil-hohenheim.de/

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Computational Chemistry

The Working Party on Computational Chemistry (WPCC) is sponsoring three upcoming events.

First, the V.A. Fock Meeting will be held on 3rd to 7th July near Kazan in Russia. With support from the WPCC, the Fock Meeting is now an international event and includes an educational part for younger researchers, with a few scholarships available for European students (see: www.intas.be/).

The 6th European Conference on Computational Chemistry (EuCo-CC6) will take place on 3rd to 7th September in Tale, Slovakia, jointly organised with Comenius University (Bratislava), including theoretical, biological, medicinal aspects. A special section on Geo-computing is also planned.

Finally, the WPCC is sponsoring the workshop on Modelling and Design of Molecular Materials 2006 (MDMM 2006) on 10th to 15th September in Wrocław, Poland. The workshop will be devoted to presenting contemporary

computational methods and their application in molecular modelling and the design of molecular materials.

www.qcc.ru/~fock/

www.fns.uniba.sk/~eucoc6/index.html

mml.ch.pwr.wroc.pl/workshop/

Sustainable Chemistry

The European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) is an initiative of the European Chemical Industry Council and the European Biotechnology Industry Association. It seeks to boost chemical research, development and innovation in Europe. SusChem has identified three key technology areas: industrial biotechnology, materials technology, and the design of reactions and processes, while a fourth area deals with a horizontal approach to innovation. The 4th SusChem Stakeholder event will be held on 27th August in Budapest.

www.suschem.org