

NEWSLETTER

"A dream come true.."

The first words of Nobel Laureate Jean-Marie Lehn in his plenary talk at the 1st European Chemistry Congress in Budapest were in every sense an appropriate statement and a valid description of the historical importance of the event. Without doubt, the Congress achieved its aim of promoting chemistry and molecular sciences at the cutting edge, fostering collaboration among scientists in research, industry and education and enhancing the public image of chemistry. Supported by the 3000 participants, an outstanding scientific programme, the sponsorship of member societies, excellent weather and the backdrop of Budapest, EuCheMS celebrated the 1st European Chemistry Congress in fine style on 27th to 31st August 2006.

Jean-Marie Lehn then went on to say "...organized by Europe for the world". The following overview of the Congress gives an excellent indication of its valuable contribution to the scientific lives of a significant number of the world's scientists.

—Participants came from over 50 countries across Europe and worldwide. Stimulated by the excellent scientific programme, opportunities flourished to interact, discuss, and exchange the ideas that will lay the foundations for future collaboration and advances in chemical sciences. The compact nature of the excellent Congress facilities, including the Exhibition Hall with 50 exhibitors, promoted easy interactions.



The ELTE Convention Centre of the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest guaranteed an interactive congress.



Jean-Marie Lehn:
"European in spirit
and international
in appeal."

—The scientific programme, coordinated by Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate, and Peter Kündig, University of Geneva, together with a geographically diverse, top-level advisory board, involved 5 Nobel Laureate plenary lectures, 10 keynote speakers, 17 scientific symposia; in all ca. 500 talks were given and 1800 posters were presented. The structure of the programme enabled all participants to take an interest in several symposia within their wider fields of interest.

—Young scientists were present in large numbers, many of them supported through bursaries from their national chemical societies. The European Young Chemist Award, with high quality entries, generated a great deal of interest.

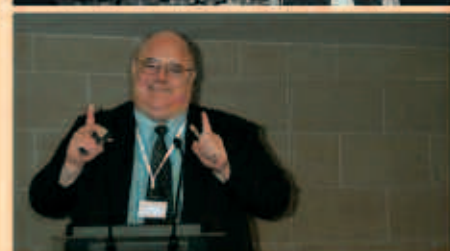
—Involvement of sister organisations in Europe included the presentation in the Opening Ceremony by Peter Elverding, President of CEFIC, on 'Pushing Back the Frontiers'.

—The extensive social programme, providing opportunities to relax, included an outdoor reception and a concert of organ music in St. Stephen Cathedral in the heart of Budapest, enjoyed by an audience of over 2000.

—The contributions from the sponsors Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Royal Society of Chemistry, Société Française de Chimie, Hungarian Chemical Society, BASF and AMRI were an important factor in ensuring that this major EuCheMS initiative was a success.

Thanks to EuCheMS and the Organising Committee chaired by Gábor Náray-Szabó, the major goal of putting chemistry on the map of Europe has now really come true.

The next Congress will be held in Torino, Italy, 16 – 20 September 2008.



Photos: Nachrichten aus der Chemie



2

EuCheMS on the European Research Council

EuCheMS held a lunch meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels in July to welcome the formation of the European Research Council (ERC) and explain its desire to work with the ERC in support of the chemical and molecular sciences community. Jerzy Buzek, MEP, Jens Rostrup-Nielsen, Member of the ERC Scientific Committee, and Antonia Mochan, from the Cabinet of Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik, were among the guests at the event sponsored by Angelika Niebler MEP.

EuCheMS wants the ERC to develop an identity complementary to similar nation-state research bodies, and urges that the ERC should use scientific quality as the sole criterion for support. The ERC should be "a body of independent mind...and not closely linked to the Commission and its imperatives", and should enjoy "real autonomy". It is essential to have a mix of research in Europe, ranging from programmes such as the European Technology Platforms to cutting edge work that challenges currently accepted norms. As part of its strategy, ERC is proposing a scheme of Starting Independent Research Grants (SIRGs) for young researchers in academia. EuCheMS supports this priority, provided that clear distinctions are made between the SIRG scheme and others already in existence, such as Marie Curie Fellowships. Also, these grants should not duplicate conventional post-doctoral awards.

All of this assumes that the ERC will have enough funding to make its mark across its wide subject remit. The FP7 budget is currently just over €50,000 million over six years—a substantial reduction on what was originally asked for—and pressure remains to see it reduced still further.



EuCheMS colleagues at the European Parliament in July 2006.

In liaison with decision makers in Brussels

EuCheMS has appointed Glenn Vaughan as its EuCheMS EU Policy Consultant, in a new initiative on behalf of the chemical science community to provide decision makers and opinion formers with independent advice based on the best available scientific knowledge. Our aim is to establish and maintain effective liaison with key Members of the European Parliament and senior officials at the European Commission.

With ten years experience of the Brussels scene, Glenn Vaughan is well placed to support EuCheMS in its aim of becoming an acknowledged source of expertise and consensus on key European issues affecting chemical and molecular sciences. These will continue to be the key underpinning sciences for future European innovation and industrial advances.

Member societies will benefit from receiving regular and timely briefings on emerging legislation, regulation and initiatives that may impact on the chemical science community, together with news updates on key issues. The operation of the



new European Research Council is one such important topic. A small committee is managing this important activity on behalf of EuCheMS. At present it is composed of representatives of the four sponsoring societies (Royal Society of Chemistry, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Société Française de Chimie and Società Chimica Italiana) together with the President and General Secretary of EuCheMS.

EuCheMS Divisions

The Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) deals with virtually all branches of chemical and molecular sciences. It is developing a "switchboard" for contacts as a collection of website addresses of analytical institutions. A DAC task force has set up a prototype. The present version focuses on institutions educating PhD students.

www.euchems.org/Divisions/DAC

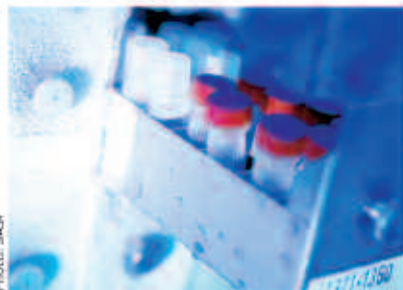


Photo: BASF

DAC calls for nominations for the "Robert Kellner Lecture 2007". The lecture will be a plenary at Euroanalysis XIV. The awardee shall be a European who has made substantial contribution to Analytical Chemistry research or education. Deadline for applications is 31st October 2006. Details from h.korte@dac-euchems.org.

The Division for Chemistry and the Environment has members representing 36 societies in 32 countries. It deals with the environmental areas air, soil and water, and also education, sustainability and heritage. The Division encourages the entry of young scientists into the discipline and promotes studies in monitoring, measuring and modelling of the fate of chemicals in the environment, in risk assessments to support regulations and directives and in green and sustainable chemistry.

www.euchems.org/Divisions/DCE

Young Chemists Network

Young people shape our future. This is a statement often heard in politics and usually used to underline the importance of the youth in our society. But it applies to the chemical world as well. The chemistry PhD student of today may become a colleague in your university or firm in 5 to 10 years, and a Nobel Prize Laureate or head of your business unit in 20 to 30 years. Therefore it is a logical step to try to connect young chemists all over Europe at this early stage in their careers, now. But how would such an association or group work? Where should we start? Indeed, there exist several national activities already, such as the YoungChem conference in Poland (www.youngchem.com) or the German "Frühjahrssymposium" (www.jcf-fruehjahrssymposium.de). Both conferences attract some students from all over Europe (and internationally), but there is no formal European focus. Against this background, a first initiative towards a European Young Chemists Network was



established as an integrated European network under the umbrella of EuCheMS in 2005.

In the course of the recent 1st European Chemistry Congress in Budapest, young chemists from the British, French, German, Italian and Hungarian chemical societies hosted a first meeting to celebrate the Young Chemists Award (participants: see photo) and to stimulate a discussion about the future of young chemists. The goal of establishing a wide base for a new EuCheMS European Young Chemists Network requires the initiative of young chemists (and the young at heart). Contact us under: youngchemists@euchems.org.

ESOF

Do we think of cooking as a scientific process? 'Molecular Gastronomy and daily technological applications – impact on health and education' was the subject of a workshop co-organised by EuCheMS and RSC during the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) in July in Munich. The award winning Chef Pascal Barbot (photo) from restaurant L'Astrance in Paris, Hervé This from the Collège de France and food chemistry expert Peter Schieberle from the German Research Centre for Food Chemistry in Munich demonstrated that an understanding of molecular gastronomy improves our understanding of food preparation.



The nature of chemical reactions in cooking and their effects on the pleasure of eating and on our health were explained. In other words cooking bears many similarities to a scientific experiment.

The European Chemistry Thematic Network

In recent years a European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) and the related Association ECTNA have been established. The main goal is to undertake trans-national activities in teaching and research to bring to convergence national approaches into a European space of chemical knowledge. At present ECTN membership comprises 159 institutions in 30 European countries plus a certain number of non-European partners. The main activities of ECTN have been organised by working groups, focussing on the Eurobachelor qualification, EChemTest and E-Learning.

The quality label "Chemistry Eurobachelor" has been awarded to twelve European chemistry departments for a total of seventeen degree programmes. Nine further applications, involving thirteen programmes, are presently being processed, and in all applications from eleven countries have been received. From autumn 2006 a Euromaster label will be offered, also with financial support from Brussels. www.ectn.net, www.eurobachelor.net

Ethical Guidelines

EuCheMS has released a white paper on „Ethical Guidelines for Publication in Journals and Reviews“ for publishers, authors and referees involved in scientific publication. The emphasis for authors is placed on the responsibility toward the community, in particular with respect to honesty and integrity in the reporting and interpretation of their work in the light of the existing literature. Publishers have responsibility for discretion in the reviewing procedure, while referees must report quickly in an objective manner and avoid any personal interest. One important feature is a set of sanctions for proven scientific misconduct, involving coordination across the boundaries of individual publishing houses. The adoption of these guidelines by major European scientific publishing houses is expected, including Wiley-VCH, the Royal Society of Chemistry, Springer-Verlag and Elsevier.

www.euchems.org/publications

EuCheMS General Assembly

During a short EuCheMS Extraordinary General Assembly meeting in April, fifteen EuCheMS member societies were incorporated under the new legal status. Together with the societies that had earlier signed the Notarial Deed in support of the new AISBL status in Belgium, there are now 44 member organisations having voting rights at EuCheMS General Assembly meetings. Other societies will have the opportunity to be incorporated in this way at the forthcoming General Assembly to be hosted by the Mendeleev Russian Chemical Society in Moscow in October.

Newsletter Advisory Board

An advisory board has been created to provide feedback on the content of each issue to further the Newsletter, and to act as a source of views, comment and advice on developing the Newsletter to meet the needs of the target audiences. Members are Reto Battaglia (Switzerland), Claudine Buess Herman (Belgium), Pavel Drasar (Czech Republic), Roger Fenwick (UK), Philippe Garrigues (France), Wolfram Koch (Germany), Minos Leontidis (Cyprus), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS Secretariat) and Giovanni Natile (Italy).



EuCheMS Newsletter

Newsletter coordinator: Alexander Lawson
Please send all correspondence and manuscripts to a.lawson@euchems.de

Editors: Ernst Guggolz, Uta Neubauer
Frankfurt am Main

Advisory board: Reto Battaglia (Switzerland), Claudine Buess Herman (Belgium), Pavel Drasar (Czech Republic), Roger Fenwick (UK), Philippe Garrigues (France), Wolfram Koch (Germany), Minos Leontidis (Cyprus), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS Secretariat) and Giovanni Natile (Italy).

Layout: Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main

Production: *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*

Publisher: Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker
on behalf of EuCheMS
Postfach 900440
D-60444 Frankfurt am Main
euchems@gdch.de



EuCheMS General Secretary:
Evelyn McEwan, c/o RSC, Burlington House,
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA, UK
secretariat@euchems.org
www.euchems.org

EuCheMS is registered as "Association internationale sans but lucratif" (AISBL, international non-profit association)
AISBL Registered office: Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels

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



Alexander Lawson

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

Events 2007

30 April – 4 May, Aachen/Germany

17th International Symposium on Radiopharmaceutical Sciences, www.ISRS2007.de

13 – 16 June, Syracuse/Italy

EuCheMS Conference on Pericyclic Reactions, www.unict.it/pr2007syracuse

26 – 30 June, Kharkiv/Ukraine

Modern Physical Chemistry for Advanced Materials, izmailov2007.univer.kharkov.ua/

2 – 6 August, Nara/Japan

14th IUPAC International Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS-14)
www.iupac.org/symposia/2007

5 – 11 August 2007, Turin/Italy

41st IUPAC Chemistry Congress
www.iupac.org/symposia/2007

1 – 6 September 2007, Sofia/Bulgaria

The XVIIth FEChem, www.euchems.org/Divisions/DOC

9 – 12 September, Torun/Poland

11th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, www.euchems.org/Events/2007.asp

9 – 14 September, Antwerp/Belgium

EUROanalysis XIV
www.euroanalysisxiv.ua.ac.be/

2nd European Chemistry Congress



Following on from the Budapest meeting (see page 1), plans are now well advanced for the next European Chemistry Congress (Torino, Italy 16th to 20th September 2008). This will be co-organised by EuCheMS and SCI (Società Chimica Italiana). The Scientific Committee is composed of the Presidents of the Divisions and Working Parties of EuCheMS, together with nominees for specific topics, under the leadership of Igor Tkatchenko (Université de Bourgogne, Dijon).

Chemistry and the Environment Conference

Arrangements are well in hand for the 11th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment to be held in Torun, Poland on the 9th to 12th September 2007 and the 12th Conference planned for Stockholm in 2009.
www.euchems.org/Divisions/DCE

Nuclear and Radiochemistry Events

The Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry plans a series of events, starting with the Symposium on Environmental Radiochemical Analysis (10th to 13th September 2006 in Oxford) and the 4th International Conference on Tracers and Tracing Techniques (3rd to 5th October 2006 in Grenoble). The Division would like to hear from other organisers of conferences on nuclear and radio-



chemistry to determine the level of support required from the Division. www.euchems.org/Divisions/NRC

Division of Life Sciences

The aim of the Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences is to inspire and coordinate scientific activities in this area by organising workshops and conferences. The 3rd EuCheMS School on Protein Chemistry in January 2007 at Alba di Canazei will provide qualified training in protein chemistry for academic and industrial application. The 2nd European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences will be organized in Wrocław, 3rd to 8th September 2007.
www.euchems.org/Divisions/LifeSciences
www.lifesciences2007.uni.wroc.pl

Division of Organometallic Chemistry

The Division of Organometallic Chemistry has representatives from 26 chemical societies. The field includes aspects of coordination chemistry, metal-mediated and -catalyzed reactions, mechanistic insights and novel preparative methods using metals. The Division fosters interactions between members with particular attention to young scientists. It runs an open access webpage with contact addresses of >2000 organometallic chemists, and also organizes the biannual FEChem conference on organometallic chemistry. The XVIIth conference will be held in Sofia, 1st to 6th September 2007
www.euchems.org/Divisions/DOC