

## The Open Science Policy Platform

About a year ago, Carlos Moedas, the EU Research Commissioner, established a high-level expert group on Open Science, the Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP), a topic that is of increasing relevance to the Commission and which will have and already has had significant effects on the European science policy, in particular on Horizon 2020.

The OSPP consists of 25 members, representing the various stakeholders: universities, research organisations, academies/learned societies, funding organisations, citizen science organisations, publishers, open science platforms, and libraries. Together with Christophe Rossel, President of the European Physical Society, I represent the European learned societies. The OSPP's main objective is to advise the Commission on the further development and implementation of the open science policy, which Commissioner Moedas defined as one of his priorities.



Carlos Moedas (centre), and the OSPP, including Wolfram Koch (third from the right)

Since its inception the OSPP met three times. Whereas the first meeting was mainly introductory in character, the subsequent meetings focused on issues such as "Citizen Science", "European Open Science Cloud", and "Open Access Publishing", for which working groups were established. In all three meetings Commissioner Moedas was present for some time and addressed the group, showing his dedication and commitment to push the Open Science agenda forward. In particular the still widespread lack of compliance with the requirement that all research publications originating from Horizon 2020 funded projects need to be open access is a matter of concern. At the last meeting, which took place on March 20 in Berlin, the Commissioner explained that to achieve 100% compliance stronger measures, such as warnings and even sanctions, seem to be necessary. As an additional instrument to support the Open Access (OA) requirement the Commission is considering an Open Research Platform, akin to the platform established recently by the Wellcome Trust. The platform will offer Horizon 2020 researchers a place to publish their results after they successfully pass the peer review. This service will not be for free but will require an adequate article processing charge. The idea, however, received mixed responses, mostly because such low cost but also low reputation open access publishing outlets usually are not heavily used by the scientific community. At the meeting, also the working group on "OA Publishing" presented its report, which pointed to the differences between disciplines with regard to their acceptance and support of open access – one size does not fit all. The development of sustainable business models is also a key recommendation of the report, which also highlights the important role that learned societies play in this process. The next meeting of the OSPP is planned for October 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Wolfram Koch

*EuCheMS representative at the OSPP, Member of EuCheMS Executive Board*

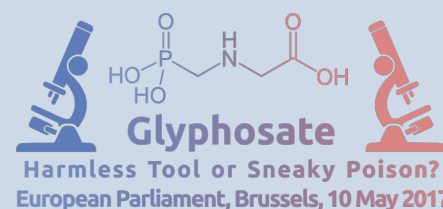
## Recent use of chemical weapons



Brussels, 7 April 2017

The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, EuCheMS, condemns in the strongest possible terms the continuing use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict. It calls on the perpetrators to be tried for War Crimes at the earliest possible moment. The use of chemical weapons is a Crime against Humanity of the severest kind and no one who orders attacks using chemical weapons should be allowed to remain free. We further call on all parties in the Syrian conflict immediately to inform the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) of all known stockpiles of chemical weapons held by them or their opponents and to allow them to be removed and destroyed at the earliest possible opportunity.

*EuCheMS Executive Board*



Video, abstracts and presentations from this workshop are available online at <http://www.euchems.eu/?p=8910>

POLICY

## Circular Economy (and why chemistry matters)

An astronaut, President Juncker, and a chemist walk into a bar, what do they have in common?

If your answer is “circular economy” (CE), which coincidentally is in the title of this article, then you are correct. Circular economy has been a rather omnipresent term in European debates since the launch of the first CE Package by the European Commission in 2014, but before going into the latest developments it is useful to go back the 1960s to better understand the concept of CE.

### Understanding Circular Economy

The ideas behind CE were initiated by many and are difficult to trace back but one of its main founders was the economist Kenneth E Boulding with his 1966 essay *The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth*. In this essay Boulding defends an economic model where humans do not act with the mind-set of cowboys in the Wild West, using resources without any concerns as if they were infinite, but instead act like astronauts living in a spaceship with very limited resources. Contrary to the cowboy linear-economy model of buy, consume and dispose, in a “closed economy” (the term “circular economy” would only appear some years later), resources would be carefully used and waste would

be used as a valuable resource hence assuring the long-term sustainability of the surrounding finite environment. Ideally, this would translate into a zero-waste economy, or as the European Commission

states more pragmatically, in a CE “the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste minimised”.



### Wasting an Opportunity?

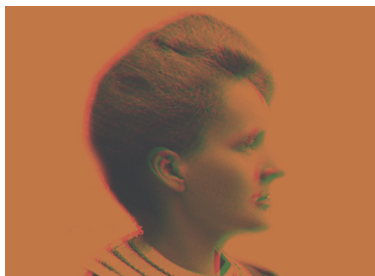
So what is the current situation regarding the production of waste in the European Union?

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pZQgGS>

*Bruno Vilela*  
 EuCheMS Public Affairs Officer

RESEARCH

## 20 years of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Launched in 1996, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) have become, after 20 years, an essential tool of the EU to strengthen research at a European level and support the researchers’ work through Europe.

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2rva46g>

*Santiago V. Luis*  
 Chair of EuCheMS Division of Chemistry and the Environment

## EYCN and COST Actions

The European Young Chemists’ Network (EYCN) moves forward thanks to its Board and four teams consisting of delegates (Science, Networks, Membership and Communications).

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pXGJ40>

*Camille Oger*  
 EYCN Secretary

## Women in chemistry: time to move on

Since the age of alchemy, for years a secretive and persecuted activity, women have significantly contributed to chemical sciences. Prominent chemists revolutionized life with new discoveries and research, new findings that have had a huge impact in fields as diverse as medicine, physics, materials, environment and aeronautics. Marie Skłodowska-Curie, a double Nobel laureate, is the most famous woman in chemistry, but not the only one. There are many other female scientists who were also Nobel laureates such as Dorothy Crowfoot-Hodgkin for using X-ray to determine the structure of biomolecules; Irene Joliot-Curie for the discovery of artificial radioactivity and Ada Yonath for her pioneering work on the structure of the ribosome. Famous non-Laureate female researchers include Elisabeth Arden mother of cosmetics; Rosalind Franklin who discovered the structure of DNA; Stephanie Kwolek inventor of Kevlar;

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2rva46g>

*Silvia Lacorte*  
 IDAEA-CSIC

*Maria Teresa Galceran*  
 University of Barcelona

## GDCh celebrates 150 years of the German Chemical Society

In 2017 the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society) celebrates the 150th anniversary of the founding of its predecessor society.

The Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft (DChG) was founded in Berlin in 1867 with August Wilhelm von Hofmann as its first president.

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pZX1sy>

*Karin J. Schmitz*  
 GDCh, Head of Public Relations Department

## RSC commitment to collaboration

On 29 March the UK government triggered Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, formally beginning the negotiations for the UK leaving the EU by April 2019. It is a time of uncertainty for UK science – but what is certain is the commitment from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and UK chemists to European and international collaboration in science.

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pZX1sy>

*Jon Edwards*  
 RSC, Corporate Communications Manager

## Introducing EFMC

The European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC) is an independent association founded in 1970 that represents 25 scientific organisations from 23 European countries (around 7,500 members). Its objective is to advance the science of medicinal chemistry by promoting cooperation and encouraging strong links between the national adhering organisations in order to deepen contacts and exchanges between medicinal chemists in Europe and around the World.

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pWW5Gd>

*Koen Augustyns*  
 EFMC President

## WHO IS WHO



Ernst Gruber, President of the Austrian Chemical Society.

Ernst Gruber is the Managing Director, Site and Operations Manager of Axalta Coating Systems Austria in Guntramsdorf.



Slavica Ražić, Chair of the Division of Analytical Chemistry.

Slavica Ražić is a professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Pharmacy.



Peter Šimon, President of the Slovak Chemical Society.

Peter Šimon is a professor at the Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology.



Sonsoles Martín-Santamaria, Chair of the Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences.

Sonsoles Martín-Santamaria leads the Computational Chemical Biology at CSIC (Spanish Research Council).



Péter Szalay, Chair of the Division of Computational and Theoretical Chemistry.

Péter Szalay is a professor at the Eötvös Loránd University.

## NOTES

## Frankfurt Executive Board meeting

During the EuCheMS Executive Board meeting, hosted by the GDCh in Frankfurt, there were many relevant topics on the table.

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pPeMzh>

David Cole-Hamilton  
EuCheMS President

## European Chemist professional designation

The European Chemist Register (ECR) is maintained by EuCheMS in order to help chemists in Europe who are members of national chemical societies to demonstrate their (...)

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pPeMzh>

Pavel Drašar  
Member of EuCheMS Executive Board

## Science Me!

Science Me! is an opportunity for researchers to present their science to a general audience in a playful, inventive and unconventional atmosphere (...)

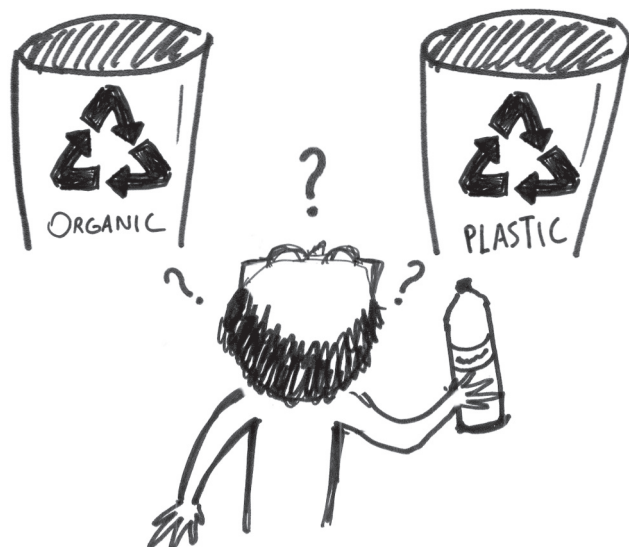
you can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2pPj2Pr>

Didier Perret  
University of Geneva, Science Me Steering committee



<http://on.fb.me/1B8Qa0n> <https://twitter.com/EuCheMS>

## FUNNY



The organic chemist's dilemma

## CALENDAR

### Glyphosate: Harmless Tool or Sneaky Poison?

10 May 2017  
Brussels, Belgium  
Website: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### TFA VIII – Trends in Food analysis VIII

24 May 2017  
Gent, Belgium  
Website: <https://www.kvcv.be/>

### EuCheMS Executive Board Meeting

8 – 9 June 2017  
Liverpool, United Kingdom  
Website: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### Science Me! 2017

11 – 13 June 2017  
Hannover, Germany  
Website: <http://scienceme.unige.ch>

### Inorganic Chemistry Days

12 – 14 June 2017  
Nynäshamn, Sweden  
Website: <http://www.oorgan.se/>

### ICCE 2017 – 16th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment

18 – 22 June 2017  
Oslo, Norway  
Website: <http://icce2017.org/>

### ISOS 2017 – International Summer School on Organic Synthesis “A. Corbella”

18 – 22 June 2017  
Brescia, Italy  
Website: <http://www.corbellasummerschool.unimi.it/>

### SPE2017 – XXII Meeting of the Portuguese Society of Electrochemistry

19 – 22 June 2017  
Ponta Delgada, Portugal  
Website: <http://www.spe2017.com/>

For the complete list of events please visit our events calendar at [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)

## COLOPHON

### Editorial Board

David Cole-Hamilton, Pavel Drašar, Pilar Goya, Nineta Hrastelj (responsible), Marta Kucza, Santiago Luis, Camille Oger, Karin Schmitz, Cristina Todasca, Bruno Vilela (coordinator).

### Communication Advisers

Adam Brownsell  
Jon Edwards

### English Proof-reading

David Cole-Hamilton

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