



# CHEMISTRY in Europe

Newsletter for European Chemistry, published by EuChemS

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## EDITORIAL



### Connecting societies

Did you know that you are part of EuChemS? Through the membership of a national chemistry association, you are also part of the European Chemical Society, which represents 51 member societies and organisations and 160,000 individual chemists. Although in size comparable to the American Chemical Society, EuChemS is less well-known among its members. This is something I would like to change.

Since the beginning of this year, I have the honor to serve as President-Elect of the European Chemical Society. It marks the start of a six-year term in the EuChemS Executive Board and I very much looking forward to be a member of this team. I see clear opportunities to increase the impact of EuChemS and contribute to improving the visibility of the chemical societies in Europe.

Let me first briefly introduce myself. I was trained as a synthetic organic chemist at the University of Amsterdam. Nowadays, I am a full professor in organic synthesis at Radboud University in Nijmegen. Perhaps more importantly, I have been president of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (KNCV) for the past three years. As president of the KNCV, I have seen how a society can be meaningful for its members. Through relevant events, sharing important information and by celebrating achievements together, members connect with each other and form a strong network.

Read the full editorial online:

<https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2020-1/>

*Floris Rutjes*

*EuChemS President-Elect*

## FOCUS

### Do you know how old EuChemS is?

If you follow us on EuChemS social media channels, we have already spoiled you the answer. If you don't, then it is time for you to start following us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook to stay up-to-date!

For this very special anniversary, EuChemS President, Pilar Goya, looks back at the creation of EuChemS and reflects on its role for Chemistry in Europe. More than building a strong network, EuChemS aims to promote international cooperation. 2020 will be a year of celebration, and you are kindly invited to join us.

Now, [discover how old EuChemS is, and much more.](#)

*EuChemS Secretariat*



### Prof Dr Floris Rutjes

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2019 – now  | Director Institute for Molecules and Materials, Radboud University, NL          |
| 2016 – 2019 | Vice-Dean of Education, Faculty of Science, Radboud University, NL              |
| 2010 – 2016 | Director Education Institute for Molecular Sciences, Radboud University, NL     |
| 1999 – now  | Full professor and Chair of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Radboud University, NL |
| 1995 – 1999 | Part-time professor Combinatorial Synthesis, University of Amsterdam, NL        |
| 1993 – 1995 | Post-doctoral fellow, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA                 |
| 1988 – 1993 | PhD, Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Amsterdam, NL               |
| 1984 – 1988 | MSc (cum laude), Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Amsterdam, NL   |

## POLICY

### What can we expect for Chemistry from the new European Commission?

The new European Commission took up office on 1 December 2019. Chaired by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, 26 other commissioners were appointed by each member state to shape the continent until 2024.

As Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen chairs the executive and assigns portfolios to the commissioners. In autumn 2019, EuChemS wrote an Open Letter to President von der Leyen on the need to revise the title of the portfolio for Commissioner Mariya Gabriel and include 'Research and Education'. We are glad that our request has been heard.

As Commissioner for 'Education, Research, Innovation and Youth', Mariya Gabriel's main tasks are structured along the European Research area, that she has yet to implement. Associating research with industrial policy is one of the challenges ahead regarding this process.

In her answers to the European Parliament questionnaire, Mariya Gabriel expressed her will to revitalize and boost Europe's science lead.

"Open science and open innovation are essential policies to realise a true European Research area."

*- Answers to the European Parliament questionnaire  
Mariya Gabriel*

You can read the full article online:

<https://bit.ly/2vOjC3O>

*Laura Jousset  
EuChemS Science Communication & Policy officer*

## RESEARCH

### Pint of Chemistry 2019

The Pint of Chemistry is a single-night outreach event born from a collaboration between the EYCN and Pint of Science in celebration of the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT2019). The event was sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and supported by IUPAC, EuChemS and by the early-career teams of the national member societies, to which our sincere gratitude goes.

For those who do not know, Pint of Science is a non-profit platform that empowers individuals and organisations to improve their public engagement and facilitate the dialogue between scientists and non-scientists.

Read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2OI1NQj>



*Alice Soldá  
Advisor of the EYCN*

*Federico Bella  
Project Leader*

### Tarragona hosted...

...the 4th edition of the EuChemS Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry (EUGSC-4) the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ) in Spain between 22 - 25 September 2019. This conference continued the successful meetings held in Budapest (2013), Lisbon (2015) and York (2017) and offered opportunities to discuss the latest developments in green & sustainable chemistry, creation of new partnerships and amplification of existing networks between academia and industry.

Read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2OI1NQj>

*Ana Aguiar-Ricardo  
Chair of the EuChemS Division on Green and Sustainable Chemistry*

*Arjan Kleij  
Chair of the EuChemS Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry (EUGSC-4)*

*Ioannis Katsoyiannis  
EuChemS Executive Board Member*

## MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

### The Hungarian Record attempt for the great Periodic Table Performance

At the end of the 150th international memorial year of the periodic table, on 13 December 2019, the Hungarian Record attempt for the great Periodic Table Performance was organized jointly by the Eszterházy Károly University in Eger and the Chemistry-teachers Division of the Hungarian Chemical Society (HCS). The purpose of the Record attempt was the innovative and creative presentation of the periodic table in the form of a flashmob by teams of 118 members each (as many as the number of elements in the periodic table).

You can read the full article online:

<https://bit.ly/2RTPwEM>

*Izabela Nowak*  
 President Polish Chemical Society

### Russian AKKORK is partner agency of ECTN



The Chemistry Eurobachelor® label was introduced in 2004 as first international recognition of high-quality educational programmes in chemistry. The labels Chemistry Euromaster® and Chemistry Doctorate

Eurolabel® followed subsequently. Some national accreditation agencies became partners of ECTN for awarding the Chemistry Eurolabel®. Contracts with the Russian accreditation agency AKKORK and the Polish Chemical Society have been signed last year.

You can read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2RTPwEM>

*Reiner Salzer*  
 past-Chair of ECTN Label Committee

## MEET...



Professor Floris Rutjes has served the scientific community as President of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (KNCV) and as Vice-Dean and Professor at Radboud University in the Netherlands.

Representatives of EuChemS Member Societies and Supporting Members voted on 3 October 2019 during the General Assembly in Bucharest, Romania, for Professor Floris Rutjes to be the next President of EuChemS.

He will start as EuChemS President in January 2021 and in the meantime will serve as President-Elect as of January 2020.



Monika Jerigová is the President of the Slovak Chemical Society. Since 2004, Jerigová has been focusing on secondary ion mass spectrometry for analyzing the chemical composition of different materials at the Comenius University of Bratislava.



Ioannis Katsoyiannis has started his term as an elected member of the EuChemS Executive Board on 1 January 2020. Katsoyiannis is currently assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



Rinaldo Poli has started his term as an elected member of the EuChemS Executive Board on 1 January 2020. Poli is currently Professor at the Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse and Chairman of ECIRM 2020.



Peter R. Schreiner is the President of the German Chemical Society. His Presidency began on 1 January 2020. Since 2002, Schreiner has been Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen (Germany).

## NOTES



### IYPT 2019

EuChemS has engaged enthusiastically with the IYPT, which was opened in Paris on 29 January and closed in Tokyo on 5 December 2019.

A Task Group, which was responsible for the EuChemS input, decided to limit our activities to a small number but to put great effort into all of them. It was very good to give so much prominence to the role of women in the development of the Periodic Table through current and former Chairs of the Working Party on the History of Chemistry, Annette Lykknes and Brigitte van Tiggelen's book, *Women in their element*.

You can read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2S9Lp64>

*David Cole-Hamilton*  
Former EuChemS President

### 50 years of EuChemS

The IYPT which has taken place during 2019 has been a most important year for EuChemS because it has allowed us to emphasize the importance of chemistry, and how it will provide solutions to the many challenges humankind will be facing. The year we are starting, 2020, is yet another opportunity for EuChemS to push home this message, since we will be commemorating our 50 years of existence.

You can read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2S9Lp64>

*Pilar Goya*  
EuChemS President

## CALENDAR

Visit: <https://www.euchems.eu/events-overview/euchems-events-calendar/> for a list of all our upcoming events.

### 8<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Congress

Lisbon, Portugal

30 August – 3 September 2020

<http://www.euchems2020.org/>



## FUN FACT



Did you know that crystallized amino acids L-Glutamine and Beta-Alanine look like this?

Source: <https://www.reddit.com/r/chemistry/>

## COLOPHON

**Chemistry in Europe (CiE)** is the EuChemS quarterly newsletter mainly intended for an audience of chemists. Its objective is to inform the community about research in Europe, to provide updates from EuChemS Member Organisations, and to investigate the latest policy-related developments.

### Editorial Board:

Pilar Goya, Nineta Hrastelj (Chair), Laura Jousset (Coordinator), Ioannis Katsoyannis, Maximilian Menche, Floris Rutjes, Karin Schmitz, Emmanuel Sinagra, Cristina Todasca.

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