



CHEMISTRY in Europe

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EDITORIAL



100 years of creating a common language for chemistry and beyond

One of the greatest achievements of chemistry in the twentieth century was the development of a common language to name and represent everything related to chemistry. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this triumph of global cooperation. At the beginning of the twentieth century, at the peak of the development of the chemical industry, our discipline lacked a common way of designating the different chemical compounds, which greatly hampered research, teaching and trade.

Motivated by the idea of overcoming this limitation, chemists from both industry and academy joined together some 100 years ago to create the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Thanks to the vision and hard work of those men and women, today we enjoy a common language for chemistry. This is evident every time we talk with colleagues from a different country. A few months ago, to give just one example, I gave a lecture in Tokyo. As I don't speak Japanese, I gave my talk in English – but the chemical formulas and the molecule structures shown in my presentation did not require translation as any chemist present in the room understood what those meant, regardless of their mother tongue.

But during its first 100 years of history, IUPAC has done much more than nomenclature and terminology. Perhaps the best-known activity of the Union is to give a name and a symbol to each chemical element of the periodic table of which this year we celebrate its International Year. That is why 2019 is such a special year for all chemists and why we have organised so many activities. I would like to highlight here the Periodic Table Challenge, an online contest about the periodic table in which participants can win an original periodic table signed by a Nobel laureate. This year we are also recognising those young chemists who have stood out for their work with a chemical element in an initiative that we have called The Periodic Table of Younger Chemists.

But at IUPAC we do many more things. We make available all kinds of critically important data ranging from atomic weights to kinetic, solubility and thermodynamic constants. We are committed to chemistry education and carry out many projects to promote chemistry throughout the world keeping in mind our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, chemical safety, and diversity.

Read the full editorial online:

<https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2019-3/>

*Javier Garcia Martinez
Professor of Chemistry, University of Alicante, Spain
IUPAC, President-elect for the 2022-2023 biennium*

FOCUS

Are you joining us in Bucharest?

Chemists from Europe with guests from beyond it will gather this year in October in Bucharest. If you have not yet registered for the EuChemS General Assembly meeting and/or for EuChemS Professional Networks meeting, please contact us at secretariat@euchems.eu. Best is to register before you go on holidays, while note the deadline: 6 September 2019.

EuChemS Secretariat



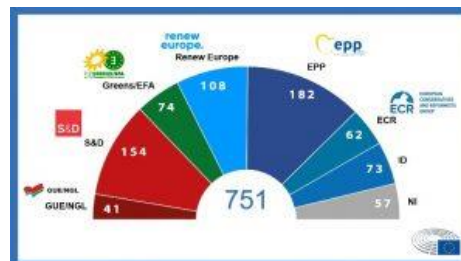
Bucharest Romania Square Free Picture, needpix.com

POLICY

Horizon Europe - a bumpy ride ahead?

As the final results came in, political commentators, journalists, lobbyists and scientists were left scratching their heads. What did the European Parliament elections really mean and what sort of legislation and policymaking would we see in the next few years? The elections did not see the surge in far-right and populist parties that was expected, but it also saw for the first time the loss of the majority coalition of the centre-right and centre-left groups. Commentators have so far labelled the resulting Parliament fragmented, with groups such as the Greens and Renew Europe (liberal centrist parties) being needed to form pro-EU coalitions. Ultimately, pro-EU parties came ahead but resting on our laurels would be unwise.

For EU science, the results are hard to judge, although the parties with the most MEPs tend to believe in the strength and potential of Europe's scientific base and tend to support greater spending for research and innovation. In July 2019, the European Parliament's Committees were



formed. The ITRE Committee – short for the Industry, Research and Energy Committee – has at closer inspection retained many of the same leading figures from the previous Parliament.

In this context, EuChemS warmly welcomes the first ever female President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

You can read the full article online:

<https://bit.ly/2P26wJt>

*Alex Schiphorst
Science Communication and Policy Officer, EuChemS*

RESEARCH

Young chemists rule: recent highlights

From May 2017 to March 2019 I was honoured to be Chair of the EYCN, the young division of EuChemS, which is a motivated team of young scientists from 28 European countries, counting 40 official delegates, representing and supporting more than 45.000 early career chemists across Europe. The EYCN aims to provide development and networking opportunities to early career chemists, to improve the visibility of chemistry and to bring it closer to a wider audience and to people from outside the research fields – including schools, partners in industry, business, and management. However, all our activities and actions are built on the voluntary work of all the young chemists actively involved in the EYCN like me.

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

*Alice Soldà
EYCN Past Chair*

Young chemists rule: new challenges

I remember when it happened. I was in Bremen, last March, for the 15th EYCN Delegate Assembly (DA) and the 21st JCF Spring Symposium / 2nd EYChEM. It was only my second DA, and I was hooked with the idea. Meeting a selection of Europe's finest in Chemistry; chosen by their national societies to represent their country. For those who don't know it, DA has an electric feeling. We meet every year in a city in Europe and design projects and ideas to engage younger generations with Chemistry and promote events and collaborations to help early career chemists across Europe. And yet, did I dare to think I could present myself to be the next EYCN Chair? Fast forward a couple of days and there I was signing as Chair for the next two years.

You can read the full article online:

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

*Antonio M. Rodríguez García
Chair of EYCN*

MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

Explore "Chemistry Between Us"!

In line with its integrative role in the national chemical community, the Hungarian Chemical Society (HCS) is committed to organising a recurring conference to inform a wide range of professionals about the diverse knowledge and application practices of Hungarian chemists. The National Chemistry Conference with the special motto 'Chemistry between us' was held between 24-26 June this year at Eszterházy Károly University in Eger (Hungary).

You can read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2TTJW4F>

Éva Frank
Correspondent, Hungarian Chemical Society

100 years of Romanian Chemistry

As for many other chemical societies around Europe, 2019 is a special year, as we celebrate the 100-years of the Romanian Chemical Society. A century ago a group of Romanian chemists decided to create the Romanian Chemical Society (SChR) starting from an existing active branch of a Romanian Society for Sciences, which dated back to 1890. The decision was mainly based on the IUPAC requirement to have the word "chemistry" within the name of the society in order to be able to affiliate to the international organism...

You can read the full article online: <https://bit.ly/2TTJW4F>



Cristina Todasca
Executive Board Member of SChR

MEET...



Dr. Rachel Mamlok-Naaman is the Chair of the EuChemS Division of Chemical Education. She studied chemistry and chemistry education. She is employed in the chemistry group at the Department of Science Teaching, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, where she served both as the head of the National Center for Chemistry Teachers (until present), and as the coordinator of the chemistry group at the Department of Science Teaching (until June 2016).

You can read the full bio online: <https://bit.ly/2P3UIXe>

NOTES



First EuChemS Historical Landmark awarded to the Ytterby mine

In 2018, EuChemS decided to establish a new Historical Landmarks Programme to identify chemical sites that have been relevant in defining the cultural makeup and history of Europe. These European sites that have played a central role in the science of chemistry, either at a European level or regional level would be identified with commemorative plaques...

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

Pilar Goya
EuChemS President

EuChemS at 47th IUPAC Congress

EuChemS was actively present at a week-long event this month in Paris which combined the 47th IUPAC Congress, the IUPAC General Assembly, and the celebrations of its 100-year anniversary. A EuChemS exhibition stand enabled participants to come and talk to our team, better understand the goals and activities of EuChemS and to find out more about upcoming events and projects. On display was the EuChemS Periodic Table depicting element scarcity, which sparked discussions and debates over the meaning of our use of elements in our smartphones and everyday technologies. We were also pleased to see some Nobel prize winners visit the booth, who were later invited by our young chemists' network, the EYCN, for interviews.

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

Nineta Hrastelj
EuChemS Secretary General

5 things about Chemistry

If you are talking about school teaching, of course there are many more than five things that need to be taught. However, I list five overarching themes that are so important that they should be included in any chemistry course:

1. Why chemistry is such an important subject. Everything around is made of chemicals – most of them coming from the chemical industry, but some from natural sources. Chemistry is responsible for feeding the world (without agricultural chemicals we would only be able to feed about 5 billion people), chemistry is responsible for clean water, energy production, materials for buildings and clothes...

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

David Cole-Hamilton
EuChemS Vice-President

CALENDAR

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

8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress
Lisbon, Portugal
30 August – 3 September 2020
<http://www.euchems2020.org/>



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:

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FUNNY



What kind of dogs do chemists have?

Laboratory retrievers!