

## European Analytical Column No. 29

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For the FECS Division of Analytical Chemistry the year 2000 was highlighted by EUROANALYSIS XI which was held in September in Lisbon, Portugal, and brought together participants from all over Europe and from overseas. Between the Opening Ceremony with the delightful talk by Alexandre Quintanilha on Fear and Trust Invoked by Science, and the one by Manfred Grasserbauer on Challenges between the poles of Science and Governance, and the last session with the FECS Lecture by Paul Crutzen on the Ozone Hole and with Perspectives outlined by Wolfhard Wegscheider and Miguel Valcárcel, ran an extraordinarily interesting sequence of generally three parallel streams of oral sessions, workshops and poster presentations. A certain part of EUROANALYSIS XI is still available on-line, namely the e-meeting on Education for the New Millennium (access via [www.chemsoc.com/networks/enc/fecs/fecsana.htm](http://www.chemsoc.com/networks/enc/fecs/fecsana.htm)). What however cannot be regained this way is the Portuguese hospitality, the flair of Lisbon, and the stimulating climate of the conference as impersonated by the President of EUROANALYSIS XI, Filomena Camões.

The next event of this series will be organized in September 2002 in Dortmund, Germany. The announcement is available in printed form as well as in the internet ([www.euroanalysis.de](http://www.euroanalysis.de)). EUROANALYSIS is the public forum of DAC and its member societies, therefore, the question of how to improve the attraction of the conference in general and to specific groups, such as students and young scientists, is a permanent matter of concern for DAC. The view onto the neighbouring scientific fields as offered by a broad-spectrum conference, as is EUROANALYSIS, does not seem to be a popular demand. Anyway, the search for front-line problems and emerging fields will go on and the outcome will hopefully grant sufficient motivation for participating also to the colleagues from industry.

The subsequent EUROANALYSIS will be held in Salamanca, Spain, in 2004. This decision was taken by the Annual Meeting which assembled on 3 September 2000 in Lisbon. In this context it should be noted that an optimum number of applications for

hosting EUROANALYSIS is hard to meet: on one hand it should provide a proper choice and allow to cover all parts of Europe as requested by the statutes of FECS and DAC, on the other hand it must be considered that the preparation of a consistent invitation means structuring a whole congress with the vast field of non-scientific aspects - and all the efforts were in vain if defeated. Such a competitor might be difficult to motivate for another attempt.

Such questions are considered by the DAC Steering Committee whose (up to now) seven members communicate mostly by e-mail and meet twice a year. Possible recommendations are then submitted for approval to the Annual Meeting. Each member society of FECS has the right to appoint one Delegate to the Division with voting right at the Annual Meeting. DAC would be happy to approach the full membership in order to have active contacts with the analytical communities in all European countries. However in particular for smaller societies, it might definitely be a problem to send Delegates to the conferences and meetings of FECS and all its Divisions and Working Parties. On the other hand even the smallest society will comprise analytically working colleagues, and DAC would really like to hear from them, about their ideas and needs, and to establish mutual communication. DAC would appreciate also to learn about other obstacles preventing active contacts.

In order to improve and to facilitate supranational cooperation and communication among analytical chemists, DAC had initiated a directory under the title Who's who in Analytical Chemistry in Europe. In 2000 the tedious process of collecting the individual permission of each one mentioned to publish his/her personal data has been completed. The first edition of the book is scheduled to appear in May 2001.

For related reasons and in order to disseminate current knowledge, DAC is organizing, stimulating and promoting conferences. Besides EUROANALYSIS, DAC held a symposium on future aspects of analytical chemistry on 11 April as part of the ANALYTICA Conference in Munich, Germany. In 2000, DAC was also involved in meetings taking place in Cairo (Egypt), Antalya (Turkey), Warsaw (Poland) and Bucharest (Romania). In earlier years DAC granted (non-financial) 'sponsorship' to quite a number of such meetings, however, in order to avoid confusion or interference with the well established and renowned FECS Sponsorship, the DAC Annual Meeting decided for the future to establish a label 'in cooperation with DAC-FECS' as a sign of quality and distinction.

Another concern of DAC in 2000 was its own visibility as experienced by the individual

colleague. Among the measures to improve this was the distribution of a leaflet together with a DAC button during EUROANALYSIS. Similar actions are planned for forthcoming events of other series. The DAC homepage got a new, easily memorized address: [www.dac-fecs.org](http://www.dac-fecs.org). The contents was extended, among other entries it comprises the DAC statutes 'Procedures and Practices' and a directory of Societies, Delegates and Observers. On the site links are provided also to the EUROANALYSIS Conferences and other meetings held in cooperation.

The DAC work on scientific topics is primarily performed by the Study Groups and Task Forces. They concentrate expertise and interest in branches such as Education, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Terminology. Their membership - Delegates, Observers and external specialists - is approved by the Annual Meeting. The Working Groups have been undergoing personnel and topical re-organization and identified their work's directions and present activities.

The year 2000 also brought the 80th birthday of Hanns Malissa, one of the most outstanding representatives of both, analytical chemistry and DAC-FECS. During the celebrating colloquium in Vienna, the DAC Chairman handed over the document confirming the Tribute of DAC to the Laureate as it had been passed by the Annual Meeting. Once again thanks and congratulations to Hanns Malissa!