



# EuCheMS

## NEWSLETTER

February 2012

## General Assembly 2011 in Belgrade

Luis Oro (EuCheMS President) chaired the EuCheMS General Assembly hosted by the Serbian Chemical Society in Belgrade on 13 to 14 October. About 60 participants included the Presidents and other representatives of EuCheMS member societies, the Chairs of the EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties and representatives of associated organisations and sister federations. Guests who gave interesting presentations on current and future activities included Long Lu (editor of publications of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies), Nancy Jackson (President of the American Chemical Society), Anthony Smith (Coordinator of the European Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Education Network), Stefan Ladeburg (General Secretary of the European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries), Gerhard Ecker (President of the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry), Antonia Morales (European Chemical Industry Council Cefic), Kathrin Winkler (ERA-Chemistry) and the President of the hosting society, Ivanka Popovic.

Luis Oro drew the attention to the significant EuCheMS achievements during the year, in addressing the vision of being a single voice for chemical and molecular sciences in Europe presenting chemistry as an essential and indispensable provider of solutions to global challenges. He reported on the success of EuCheMS strategic objectives

- to encourage professional development and networking by developing EuCheMS networking schemes,
- to promote effective partnership through fostering links with the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association and other strategic partners,
- to substantiate policy development through establishing and implementing sustainable policy development activities,

- to strengthen the EuCheMS science base through fostering active divisions and interdisciplinary actions,
- to improve decision making in governance and finance through employing permanent staff,
- to enhance communication and recognition via European Sustainable Chemistry Award, Brussels News Update and EuCheMS Newsletter.

Viviana Fluxa (Chair of the European Young Chemists Network, EYCN) complemented the report on EuCheMS past achievements by giving update on recent activities and future aims of the EYCN.

After introductory presentations on policy issues, given by Jose Labastida (Head of the Department at the European Research Council Executive Agency), Rudolf Strohmeier (Deputy Director General at the Directorate General Research and Innovation of the European Commission), Ulrich Schubert (EuCheMS President Elect) and Nineta Majcen (Secretary General of EuCheMS), topical issues were debated, namely: chemistry and the European Research Council, chemistry and Horizon 2020, funding for EuCheMS, and open access publishing.

At the end of the meeting Luis Oro retired as President and became Immediate Past President for the next two years and Ulrich Schubert was welcomed as new President. Both thanked the Serbian society for excellent hosting of the EuCheMS General Assembly and the associated meetings.

*Nineta Majcen*

### Changes in EuCheMS Executive Board

Reto Battaglia has retired as appointed Executive Board member. Two new Executive Board members were elected: Igor Tkatchenko (French Chemical Society) and Ehud Keinan (Israel Chemical Society).

### Evelyn McEwan receives EuCheMS Award

It was with immense gratitude that the delegates wished Evelyn McEwan goodbye at the EuCheMS General Assembly in Belgrade. After 16 years as EuCheMS General Secretary, she leaves EuCheMS, having also retired from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC).

In appreciation of her contribution to EuCheMS, helping to steer its development from a network of friends to a professionally managed association recognised across Europe, Luis Oro presented Evelyn with the EuCheMS Award for Service and a commemorative plate.

Evelyn joined the Royal Institute of Chemistry (RIC, a predecessor of RSC) in 1975. At that time, the RIC played a leading role in the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS, the predecessor of EuCheMS) and in the European Communities Chemistry Council (ECCC). As Secretary of ECCC from 1980, Evelyn promoted ECCC/FECS collaboration and their eventual merger. In 1996 she was appointed FECS General Secretary – a role with which she identified herself completely. In 2000, the idea of a European Chemistry Congress was born, alongside the need for legal status.

After the launch of EuCheMS in 2006, Evelyn's role continued to grow. From the Brussels News Updates and hiring of policy advisors to the European Sustainable Chemistry Award – countless were the initiatives that Evelyn took on, while ensuring effective governance and financial stability. She was a decisive and imaginative driving force behind EuCheMS – what it is and stands for today!

We wish Evelyn all the best for her future.

*Reto Battaglia, rb@battaglia-gmbh.ch*



*Luis Oro presented Evelyn McEwan with the EuCheMS Award for Service.*



## Chemistry connections

Did you know that through connections between researchers and their supervisors, Marie Curie and Cyril Hinshelwood could both link their scientific lineage back to Justus von Liebig? But where do you fit in? Can you trace your chemistry connections to any renowned chemist? The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has launched an online tool to build a global and historical picture of chemical scientists. Please get involved and take your place in chemistry history at <http://my.rsc.org/chemistryconnections>.

*Sheena Elliott, ElliottS@rsc.org*

## New GDCh website

The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society, GDCh) is pleased to announce the re-launch of its website. The new website at [www.gdch.de](http://www.gdch.de) delivers timely, well-organised information to the chemical community. It is easier to navigate and allows greater interaction with the GDCh network and its variety of structures. *gk*

## Career Days 2012 in Prague

Preparations for the EuChemS Chemistry Congress 2012 in Prague are in full swing. As in Nuremberg, the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) and GDCh Career Service will combine their ideas, experience and enthusiasm to organise Career Days for undergraduate and graduate students. "Based on past experience, we want to help young scientists to improve their career possibilities. Job-interview trainings, CV workshops and seminars about development of soft skills will guide them to an outstanding career," says Viviana Fluxa, Chair of EYCN. A preliminary programme will be published soon on EYCN and GDCh Career Service pages. *ks*

## 10 years TrainMIC

The Joint Research Centre recently released a video about the 10th anniversary of TrainMIC, the European life long learning programme on metrology in chemistry (MIC). *ks*

[www.youtube.com/user/JRCaudiovisuals#p/u/0/BiN4mVvTmYw](http://www.youtube.com/user/JRCaudiovisuals#p/u/0/BiN4mVvTmYw)

## Euroanalysis 2011 in Belgrade

Belgrade was the meeting place for almost 600 analytical chemists from 57 countries from all over Europe and overseas. The 16th European Conference on Analytical Chemistry held in September was organised by the Divisions of Analytical Chemistry of the Serbian Chemical Society (SCS) and EuChemS. Chairpersons of the Euroanalysis 2011 were Slavica Ražić and Ivanka Popovic.

Ten plenary lectures built the framework of the conference. The plenary sessions were complemented by 21 keynote proceedings sessions and three poster sessions. All in all, the 135 oral and 560 poster presentations featuring core topic areas of analytical chemistry (and especially the impressive number of young scientists) together created an excellent atmosphere for enthusiastic discussions on cutting-edge analytical chemistry.

Two prestige awards were given: the Robert Kellner Lecture (sponsored by Springer) to Jonas Berquist and the EuChemS Lecture 2011 to Alfredo Sanz-Medel. Moreover, six posters were selected as the best in terms of scientific originality and overall presentation. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition in which



*Poster session as an excellent networking place.*

companies and scientific organisations presented their novel concepts of smarter technologies and the latest innovations and solutions. This exhibition, the Euroanalysis party and several excursions all provided an excellent opportunity for networking and creating new contacts and friendships.

A special issue in the context of the Euroanalysis 2011 will be published in *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* with full research papers.

*Slavica Ražić*

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## Environmental chemistry: ICCE 2011 in Zurich

The 13th EuChemS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment (ICCE 2011) took place on 11 to 15 September at the ETH in Zurich, hosted by the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the Swiss Chemical Society in cooperation with the Division of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker.

The conference emphasis was on emerging issues in environmental chemistry: from basic research to implementation. During three days 116 talks and 220 posters were presented covering the following eight topics: emerging organic and inorganic contaminants, nanomaterials, drinking water quality and treatment including groundwater contamination, atmospheric chemistry and aerosols, soil and sediment pollution, biochemical

and chemical transformation processes, model evaluation and prediction for the environmental fate of chemicals, and effects to organisms and ecosystems. Four satellite events took place on 11 September dealing with per- and polyfluorinated compounds, good modelling practice, non-target analysis, and nano-regulation.

The conference was attended by about 460 participants from 52 countries from all continents. Thanks to the financial support by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons it was possible to award travel and conference grants to 24 junior and three senior scientists from eleven Eastern European countries.

*Walter Giger, wgiger@hispeed.ch*

## Roadmap for chemical sciences

Ulrich Schubert (EuCheMS President Elect) presented the EuCheMS roadmap for chemical sciences (“Chemistry: Developing solutions in a changing world”) at the workshop “Where do comfort, health, connectivity, efficiency and innovation meet?” in Brussels on 6 September. The workshop was organised by the European Commission Directorate General Enterprise and Industry, the European Chemical Industry Council Cefic and EuCheMS. The workshop was followed by opening of the exhibition “Tomorrow starts with chemistry”, where opening speeches were given by Antonio Tajani (EC Vice-President in charge of Industry and Entrepreneurship), Giorgio Squinzi (Cefic President) and Ulrich Schubert. The distinguished speakers continued the discussion in the context of the European parliament during the working dinner, orga-



*Tomorrow starts with chemistry: Ulrich Schubert gave a talk at the opening of the exhibition.*

nised by the non-profit platform Knowledge4Innovation (K4I). Ulrich Schubert emphasised the importance of challenges and opportunities that are lying ahead in these areas, namely sustainable energy technologies, more efficient chemical processes, resource substitution, reduced quantities, and recycling and recovery.

*Nineta Majcen, nineta.majcen@euchems.eu*

## Chemistry for life sciences

The 4th European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences (ECCLS) was held on 31 August to 3 September 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. It inspired an interdisciplinary audience and attracted young researchers to this highly flourishing field of chemistry and biology. Nearly 400 participants from 37 countries participated in four plenary sessions and eleven keynotes, almost 90 other oral presentations and more than 170 poster presentations. The conference was supported by IUPAC and EuCheMS and numerous national institutions, organisations and enterprises. Poster prizes were awarded to four young scientists by the *New Journal of Chemistry* and the Royal Society of Chemistry. During the conference short courses of selected topics in biology and four “Tutorials towards biology” were offered. Two satellite meetings preceded the conference: the 13th Central European NMR Symposium and 13th Central European Bruker Users Meeting & East-NMR Workshop on the one hand and a workshop on metal-containing drugs on the other. The 5th ECCLS is planned for fall 2013 in Barcelona, Spain.

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## Safety of nanomaterials

In October 2011 the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and the European Academies Science Advisory Council presented the joint report “Impact of engineered nanomaterials on health: considerations for benefit-risk assessment”. It summarises the state-of-the-art knowledge on the safety of nanomaterials and concludes that there is to-date only limited scientific evidence to suggest that nanomaterials present a risk for human health.

The report identifies key recommendations to stakeholders and policy makers. The authors call for the harmonisation of test protocols and the need for regulators and researchers to work together in identifying priorities. Knowledge on nanospecific properties should be used to minimise risk by applying the principle of safety-by-design.

The publication of the report coincided with adoption by the European Commission of a recommendation on a definition of nanomaterials. The report can be downloaded at <http://ihcp.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/ihcp-reports>.

*Barbara Piotrowska  
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## New chemistry EuroLabels

Two new quality labels for chemistry educational programmes were recently added to the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association’s portfolio: the Chemical Technology EuroMaster and the Chemistry Doctorate EuroLabel. Together with the Chemistry EuroBachelor and the Chemistry EuroMaster the three-tier Bologna scheme now has a quality label for every level. On the bachelor level one general label for all chemical educational institutions was established, whereas on the master level the labels shall be diversified according to the specialisation.

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## EuCheMS promotes the European Chemist designation

EuCheMS Executive Board recently submitted to the European Commission (EC) a comment to the “Green paper on modernising the professional qualification directive”. The idea of the EC to have a sort of professional card is welcomed by the EuCheMS Board as EuCheMS promotes the European Chemist (EurChem) professional designation.

Anyone may apply for EurChem through the EuCheMS national chemical society, or (in the case where the society does not participate in the scheme) directly through the European Chemist Registration Board (ERCB) at [www.euchems.eu/about/executive-board/european-chemist-registration-board.html](http://www.euchems.eu/about/executive-board/european-chemist-registration-board.html).

The EurChem designation fulfils the EU idea of a card and has been awarded since 1992. It parallels the professional designations Chartered Chemist (CChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci) that are popular in the UK. Moreover, on the basis of mutual agreement of EuCheMS and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), EurChem and CChem are considered to be of equal value allowing the bearer of CChem to be very simply processed for EurChem and vice versa. It seems that such a quality label for professionals is also gaining interest in the US.

*Pavel Drašar, ERCB Chair  
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## Chemistry for a better life

On 9 November, the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) group of the European Parliament, in conjunction with EuCheMS and the European Chemical Industry Council CEFIC, organised a workshop entitled "Chemistry for a better life" to highlight the crucial contribution of chemistry to improving the quality of life for mankind.

Teresa Riera Madurell (Member of the European Parliament, MEP) opened the workshop by quoting Marie Skłodowska Curie: „Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is time to understand more, so that we may fear less“. After the keynote speech of Avelino Corma (Instituto de Tecnología Química, Valencia), Ulrich Schubert (EuCheMS President) introduced the EuCheMS roadmap for chemical sciences (see page 3).

Both introductory presentations set up a framework for the three panels. "Innovation Union, chemistry and Horizon" was chaired by Dieter Jahn (BASF) who moderated an interesting discussion between the panel speakers Maria da Graça Carvalho (MEP), Christopher Allen (EC), Gabor Mihaly Nagy (ERC), Nineta Majcen (EuCheMS) and Gernot Klotz (CEFIC). Nicola Armaroli (CNR Bologna) introduced the topic of the panel "Chemistry for resource efficiency", to which Søren Bøwadt (EC) and Klaus Sommer (Bayer, SusChem) respectively added the views of the European Commission and a stakeholder. In the third panel, "Chemistry for smart living" was discussed by Edit Herzog (MEP), Krzysztof Maruszewski (EC), Johannes Spork (CEFIC) and Aurora Walshe (EYCN). This panel was chaired by Richard Allan (Scottish Water Horizons).

To coincide with the workshop, the European Young Chemists Network organised a poster exhibition showing many abstract images related to chemistry, each one chosen to demonstrate the varied impact of chemistry on our day-to-day lives. The images were taken from the huge library of photos that had been collected as part of an "Everything is Chemistry" photography competition – the twelve winning photos becoming a calendar for the International Year of Chemistry 2011.

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## Events 2012

05 – 11 August 2012, Wales, UK

EUCHEM Conference Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids  
[www.euchem2012.org](http://www.euchem2012.org)

26 – 30 August 2012, Prague, Czech Republic

4th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress  
[www.euchems-prague2012.cz](http://www.euchems-prague2012.cz)

## Events 2014

31 August – 4 September 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress  
[www.euchems-istanbul2014.org](http://www.euchems-istanbul2014.org)

## That was the International Year of Chemistry 2011 in Israel

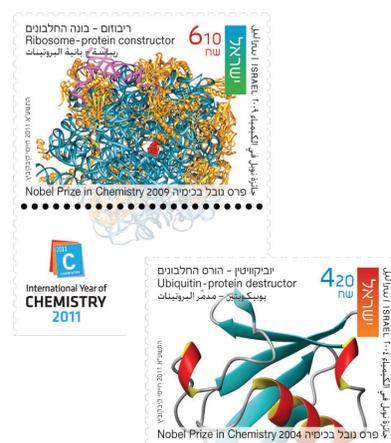
The Israel Chemical Society (ICS, founded in 1933) celebrated the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011 with over a dozen original endeavors, all aiming at increasing the public appreciation of chemistry and, in particular, increasing the interest of young people in chemistry and chemical education. The Launch Ceremony in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in January 2011, was attended by hundreds distinguished guests, including Ulrich Schubert (EuCheMS President Elect), Nicole Moreau (IUPAC President), Government Ministers, Knesset Members, President of the Israel Academy of Sciences, professors, teachers, and students.

Two Israeli stamps commemorated the IYC 2011, depicting scientific achievements for which Nobel prizes in chemistry were awarded to Israeli scientists in 2004 and 2009. Two teams of eight runners represented the ICS in the Mountain to Valley relay race in May 2011. Both teams completed the challenging route of 212 kilometers in about 20 hours.

A Chemistry Week held in Tel Aviv in February 2011 included the 76th ICS meeting, the 14th Isranalytica and the largest ever exhibition of

scientific equipment and instrumentation with close to 3000 participants. Other events included the International Conference on Art, Science and Technology in Carmiel, and the Researchers' Night at the National Science Museum in Haifa. Further details are published in the *Israel Journal of Chemistry* (Israel J. Chem. 2011, 51, 688-697).

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Israeli stamps commemorated the IYC 2011.

### EuCheMS Newsletter



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Germany), Luis Oro (Spain), Giovanni Natile

(Italy), Nineta Majcen (EuCheMS Secretariat),

Marie-Claude Vitorge (France), Paola

Turano (Italy), Viktor Milata (Slovakia).

**Layout:** Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main

**Production:** Nachrichten aus der Chemie

**Publisher:** Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS

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