



CHEMISTRY in Europe

Newsletter for European Chemistry, published by EuChemS

Issue #2020 – 2

EDITORIAL



ChemPubSoc Europe becomes Chemistry Europe

New name, new brand, same high quality

ChemPubSoc Europe, the group of 16 Continental European chemical societies – all members of EuChemS – which co-own and publish a well-known family of high-quality scholarly chemistry journals, such as Chemistry – A

European Journal, European Journal of Organic Chemistry and European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry, ChemSusChem and other ChemXChem titles or Chemistry Open, have on 31 March 2020, officially formed a new joint association, named Chemistry Europe – European Chemical Societies Publishing. Building on a history of a quarter of a century (the first journal, Chemistry – A European Journal was founded in 1995), Chemistry Europe opens a new chapter in our successful cooperation of the member societies and the development of our journals, including a redefinition and sharpening of our core values. The mission of Chemistry Europe is to evaluate, publish, disseminate, and amplify the scientific excellence of chemistry researchers from around the globe in high-quality publications. It supports its members at every stage of their careers as they strive to solve the challenges that impact humankind. In all its work, Chemistry Europe values integrity, openness, diversity, cooperation, and freedom of thought. Along with the new name and brand, also a completely new visual identity has been developed, including a new logo and covers for all Chemistry Europe journals. This new visual representation underlines the one family all these society-owned journals belong to, and also their shared commitment to excellence, quality, and integrity. The process of the relaunch started almost two years ago and was driven by a team made up of stakeholders from the member societies, the (then) ChemPubSoc Europe Council and from our publishing partner Wiley-VCH. During the project, several workshops were held in which researchers and society members were asked about what they value and what they need from their scientific community, learned societies and scholarly journals. The result is Chemistry Europe with this unique value proposition: For scientists worldwide who want chemistry research and perspectives to be fairly considered, widely disseminated and easily accessible, Chemistry Europe is the only chemical forum in the world that connects members and non-members to a European scientific community whose commitment to and respect for the sciences are unwavering, unmatched, and everlasting. With Chemistry Europe, scholarly publishing in Europe has gained a new momentum and we all look forward to continuing this successful path.

Wolfram Koch

Member of the Chemistry Europe Council and
EuChemS Executive Board Member

FOCUS

Updates due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic that so deeply affects our lives and countries is not expected to end soon, and its consequences will be felt for a long time. We are thus forced to either postpone or meet online this year. Here are new dates for this year's EuChemS meetings and events:

3 July 2020

Online EuChemS 50th anniversary celebration

24 September 2020

Online 2020 EuChemS General Assembly

29 September 2020

Online annual meeting with EuChemS Professional Networks

28 August – 1 September 2022

8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC8) will still be held in, Lisbon, Portugal. More information is available on the [ECC8 website](#) and on its [official Twitter account](#).



EuChemS
Chemistry Congress

28 August to 1 September
2022 · LISBON.PT

EuChemS Secretariat

POLICY

European Parliamentary Committees: when Chemistry and policy go hand in hand

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are divided up into [22 standing Committees and sub-committees](#). These Committees are designed to help the European Parliament to make legislative decisions: they consider and amend legislative proposals of the European Commission. Among their additional missions are drafting resolutions on topical matters and organizing hearings with experts. The 22 parliamentary Committees are specialised on a subject and are composed of MEPs. Each has a Chair, Vice-Chairs, and a secretariat.

Well-aware of the importance of science, including Chemistry, in our everyday lives, MEPs are essential in showing the role of Chemistry for society and in making sure that reliable scientific knowledge goes into policy action.

In order to tackle today's major societal challenges (industry revolution, research and innovation, environment, sustainable energy sources, public health, food safety), the European Chemical Society actively monitors the activities and participates in the events of the parliamentary Committees addressing chemistry-related issues, as science knowledge has a decisive role in most of the EU legislative making processes.

The Committees' debates are open to the public. EuChemS attends those for which Chemistry knowledge is essential. But do you know to which of the 22 parliamentary Committees Chemistry contributes the most and brings up-to-date science into legislation?

Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee

The [ITRE Committee](#) has a vast number of responsibilities and missions. From a chemist's point of view, the most significant are (i) research and innovation policy, science and technology, dissemination and exploitation of research findings, (ii) industrial policy and applications of new technologies, (iii) the activities of the Joint Research Centre, the European Research Council, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, (iv) the promotion of energy efficiency and energy saving, the development of new and renewable forms of energy, (v) nuclear safety and decommissioning and waste disposal in the nuclear sector (compliance with the Euratom Treaty).

The ITRE Committee is quite large counting [78 MEPs](#) and 74 substitutes. ITRE Committee is chaired by Cristian-Silviu Buşoi.

Current activities of ITRE include topics as: 'A just energy transition, opportunity for EU industries, the role of hydrogen in the future'; 'How to tackle challenges in a future-oriented EU industrial strategy?', 'Europe – the Global Centre for Excellent Research', '5G Deployment: State of play in Europe, USA and Asia'. One of the topics that EuChemS closely follows is Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and the rapporteur appointed by the ITRE Committee is MEP Christian Ehler (Germany).

In 2014, when the MEP Jerzy Buzek was the Chair of the ITRE Committee, he accepted the invitation of EuChemS to address the attendees of the EuChemS General Assembly (see the full video here). On this occasion, he said that the topics discussed within EuChemS are very high on the agenda of the ITRE Committee, and the whole EU as well. He also emphasized that the work of our top experts, such as members of EuChemS, is crucial for the success of research and innovation programs that strengthen Europe's scientific and technological base.



'The common objective is to design a new EU industrial strategy, as an effort to achieve a more competitive resilient industry [...] to continue to transform more societies or economies or energy systems in the direction of Green Deal objectives.'

- Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (Romania), Chair of the ITRE Committee

Source: [Pan-European Hackathon #EUvsVirus](#)

Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee

The [ENVI Committee](#) evolved with the growing environmental awareness, becoming today the largest parliamentary committee with [81 MEPs](#). The ENVI Committee is responsible for environmental policy and protection measures, as well as public health and food safety measures. It is also responsible for topics covered by the Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), to which EuChemS is an accredited stakeholder.

The Committee has a very busy agenda, including lately the preparatory work for Europe's Beating Cancer plan and – as it will not have escaped your notice – the management of the COVID-19 health crisis. In the recent past, many proposals made by the ENVI Committee were adopted by the European Commission, such as a new Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment; the Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution supporting a 55% reduction of EU emission by 2030, and calling on the European Council to support net-zero EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.

As an example of EuChemS collaboration with the ENVI Committee, the policy workshop on glyphosate's possible negative effect on human health which was held in the European Parliament in 2017 should be mentioned. EuChemS, together with ex MEP Pavel Poc, who was Vice-Chair of the ENVI Committee, and the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTN), invited ECHA representatives and leading experts in the field to participate in a scientific evidence based debate on the topic.



'I am committed to the highest level of transparency so as to increase citizens' understanding and participation in our work.'

– Pascal Canfin (France), Chair of the ENVI Committee

Source : <https://bit.ly/3eJQehh>,

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To address effectively global societal challenges, the European Chemical Society with its network of more than 150000 chemists have responsibility to provide expertise and scientific advice that MEPs seek for. Committees are in a position to turn scientific advice into policy and practice, and EuChemS is glad to be a key knowledge provider in this process.

WHO'S WHO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committees

 AFET FOREIGN AFFAIRS David McALLISTER (EPP)	 TRAN TRANSPORT AND TOURISM Karima DELLI (Greens/EFA)
 DEVE DEVELOPMENT Tomas TOBÉ (EPP)	 REGI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Younous OMARJEE (GUE/NGL)
 INTA INTERNATIONAL TRADE Bernid LANGE (S&D)	 AGRI AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT Norbert LINS (EPP)
 BUDG BUDGETS Johan VAN OVERTVELDT (ECR)	 PECH FISHERIES Chris DAVIES (Renew Europe)
 CONT BUDGETARY CONTROL Monika HOHLMEIER (EPP)	 CULT CULTURE AND EDUCATION Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP)
 ECON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS Irene TINAGLI (S&D)	 JURI LEGAL AFFAIRS Lucy NETHSINGHA (Renew Europe)
 EMPL EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS Lucia DURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR)	 LIBE CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D)
 ENVI ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY Pascal CANFIN (Renew Europe)	 AFCO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS Antonio TAJANI (EPP)
 ITRE INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY Cristian-Silviu BUȘOI (EPP)	 FEMM WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY Evelyn REGNER (S&D)
 IMCO INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION Petra DE SUTTER (Greens/EFA)	 PETI PETITIONS Dolors MONTSERRAT (EPP)

Subcommittees

 DROI HUMAN RIGHTS Maria ARENA (S&D)	 SEDE SECURITY AND DEFENCE Nathalie LOISEAU (Renew Europe)
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RESEARCH

The 2019 conference of the Computational and Theoretical Chemistry

During the 7th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, the Division of Computational and Theoretical Chemistry (DCTC) of the European Chemical Society held the Symposium “Methods of computational chemistry: challenges and new developments”. Its Board planned to hold its European Conference on Computational and Theoretical Chemistry (EUCCO-CTC 2019) from 1-5 September 2019 DCTC in Perugia, Italy. The Board also agreed to qualify EUCCO-CTC 2019 as a clear Open Molecular Science Cloud (OMSC) event and involve the US Molecular Sciences Software Institute (MolSSI).

The OMSC connotation of 12th EUCCO-CTC 2019 is evident from the list of invited lectures spanning from:

- Basic CTC scientific themes: Szalay, S. Evangelisti and R. Sayos (2 September),
- Computationally intensive applications: Klopper, G. Cruciani and C. Cappelli (3 September),
- OMSC-oriented subjects: G.A. Smith, J.-P. Piquemal, F. Ruggieri and P.A. Fernandes (4-5 September).

Additional OMSC activities of EUCCO-CTC 2019 that run in parallel during the workshop were:

- Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling (TCCM) Erasmus mundus Master students illustrating and discussing with the audience their thesis work: Alcamì (3 September).
- Participants’ training on the cloud to search, download, modify and re-use Learning Objects from the G-Lorep repository, to define the Echemtest[®] takers, to set the needed Self Evaluation Sessions (SEs) at the Test Centres and to work out the final evaluation and/or dissemination outcomes: Tasso, O. Gervasi and S. Tortorella (3 September).
- Participants’ training to use VHERLA, the cloud image of the University of Perugia infrastructure allocated as a virtual data centre on the GARR national cloud, and running OMSC applications: Vitillaro, E. Mosconi (5 September).

On 5-6 September, the final presentations were held at the Accademia delle Scienze in Rome with participation by V. Aquilanti, F. Ruggieri, A. Laganà, D.G.A. Smith, J.-P. Piquemal, E. Blurock, C. Bo, A. Lombardi, N. Fagnas Lago, Z. Couronia, A.M. Paci, S. Rampino, P. Szalay, V.W.D. Cruzeiro, G. Jones, J. Maat, S. Seritan. The EUCCO-CTC 2019 was wrapped up with discussions on the production, validation and re-use of chemical data on the cloud, their articulation in electronic structure and equilibrium molecular configurations, reactive and non-reactive dynamics, design of bioactive molecules, management of distributed repositories and dissemination, publication, evaluation and validation of molecular knowledge within the MOSEX (Molecular Open Science Enabled Cloud Services) project.



2019 conference of the Computational and Theoretical Chemistry ©Antonio Laganà



Antonio Laganà
CNR SCITEC – UOS, Perugia and University of Perugia, Italy

MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

Interview with Dr Wolfgang Fritsche, Honorary President of FECS

On 21 January 2020, Pilar Goya, President of EuChemS, and Wolfram Koch, Executive Director of GDCh, carried out the following interview with Dr Wolfgang Fritsche. This was held in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of EuChemS, since Dr Fritsche is one of the founders of FECS (Federation of European Chemical Societies), a predecessor organisation of EuChemS.

First of all, let me on behalf of EuChemS, thank you for accepting to talk to us; I am really interested in meeting you and I have been reading your address on the 25th anniversary of FECS which was held in Prague.

Prague was the city where the Federation of European Chemical Societies was founded. And I tell you the story... The idea to create a federation was risen by the British Doctor Eric Parker who was the Secretary General of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. It doesn't exist any longer since the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Chemical Society were two different scientific societies in Great Britain from which the Royal Institute of Chemistry had more of a professional touch. And now they are joined and are the Royal Society of Chemistry. In the beginning, only societies from Western Europe were involved and they invited us secretary generals of the Western European societies. However, I said I only agreed with founding a Federation of European Chemical Societies if we include the Eastern societies behind the Iron Curtain. And it was very difficult for me to convince these people that Chemistry is a science and not a political issue. And so, I succeeded in including the Eastern societies. And so, the founding of the Federation took place in Prague. Dr Parker, was very active in creating the Federation, and he was the General Secretary of the Federation at the beginning, for some time until I took over in 1976.

And then you celebrated the 25th anniversary also in Prague where you gave the anniversary address from which I have learned so much about FECS. For example, the way you dealt with all aspects of Chemistry was really in advance of your time. I mean, you already had chemistry and the environment, cultural heritage. As a matter of fact, we still have more or less the same Divisions and Working Parties.

Yes, and we also had a professional affairs division.

What was it exactly?

To compare the qualification in Chemistry in the different countries. And we always insisted that the German Diplom Chemiker which due to the Bologna process is no longer there, should be the centre of the comparison. And that worked, in a way, for a while. I don't know what happened after I left.



Wolfgang Fritsche with the EuChemS President Pilar Goya

That kind of structure we don't have anymore. And then at the beginning I think there were somewhat 17 societies?

I really do not remember because it is about thirty years that I retired, 1991. It's a long time, but it was a real challenge at that time. We founded the Federation. And in the beginning, there were only Western members, until I said we should include the Eastern societies. And then they joined, particularly the Hungarian Chemical Society was very active. And so we decided that the secretariat of the Federation should be divided in two parts: one in Frankfurt, which was taken over by me and one in Budapest, which was taken over by Dr Miklos Preisich.

And you did not have an established budget?

No. Each society paid what they were able to. You know, German Chemical Society is always a very powerful society in comparison with the others, except the British. And so we took it. I had one secretary that was employed only for the Federation for the beginning. I can't remember how long, but quite a number of years. Because it was very much work. Then the Asian chemical societies wanted to create something akin to FECS and they invited me to initiate this. And so, I also made statutes for the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies.

That is FACS, Federation of Asian Chemical Societies, and it still exists.

I don't follow it closely now, but until about two or three years ago, I still got Christmas greetings from the Princess Chulabhorn from Thailand who played a very important role. She was very active. They visited us here. We always had very intense personal contacts with all these people who were very, very nice.



And what was your relation with the chemical industry?

They supported us because we were a scientific society. I mean, the chemical industry in Germany took great part in promoting our aims, but this is not active anymore because the bosses of the large chemical companies are no longer chemists as they were at that time. It was very different then. Professor Winnacker who was President also of the German Chemical Society, he was the chairman of Hoechst and a chemist; and the follower, Professor Hilger also a chemist, a co-student of me in Bonn... I studied in Bonn and he was also there. So we had a network for some time soon, Dr Munde, Managing Director of the Verband der Chemischen Industrie (the German Chemical Industry Association), also a co-student in Bonn.

Yes, these times have changed.

That is true. It is clear to me, when I read the Nachrichten aus der Chemie (the GDCh membership magazine).

So you still read things on Chemistry, so you try to keep up?

Yes, but I'm not interested in the details anymore. It's too different from that time. I mean it was a time rather close to the end of the war. There were still certain differences between British and German, and Dutch and German, and Polish and German, and Czech and German. But we brought it all together in the Federation. And it was very, very nice. And a few years later, also the Soviet Union was represented.

Yes, I think it was a great idea because it was not only East and West, but also within the West.

Yes, that's what I mean, even within the West. It worked perfectly in the beginning.

If I remember correctly, the only Eastern country that did not join was East Germany. Is that right?

Yes, but they joined at the very end.

Why? Why was that? What was the problem for the East Germans?

That you must ask the East Germans. They didn't get the permission from the government, I believe.

So that was different in the other countries of Eastern Europe?

Yes, and I remember it was at a meeting in Budapest, one of the last meetings I took part in, there were the East German representative Professor Fanghänel and a lady, which is now in GDCh

She is no longer. I know who you mean. Frau Kiessling.

She was the secretary of the Eastern society, I forgot her name now, but she lives not far away from here. And I met these too, for the first time in Budapest. It was one of the last Federation meetings before the end of the separation wall came down. And then they joined us.

Another thing that is very much ahead of your time and in which I think that you were pioneers, is that you already had a code of conduct and were worried about ethical issues.

Yes. That is true. As I said at the beginning when you came in, not only the code of conduct, but also the comparison of the qualifications in Chemistry. That was also a very important issue for us. So that students could change from one country to the other if possible.

And what were your relations with IUPAC, who were "older"?

Very friendly, there was no interference. Very special, very good.

And you had contacts with them?

Definitely. I was also in the Executive Committee of IUPAC for some time. I was not the only one, of course. There were also other people in IUPAC.

And with the American Chemical Society, at that time?

I was against the American Chemical Society, joining the Federation of European Chemical Societies, I was against it.

But did they want that?

They wanted it. I remember there were quite a number of people in Europe who agreed to it. And I said it is not. We had friendly relations, but they didn't become members. It was the same with the Israel Chemical Society because we said we are European Chemical Society, a geographical body.

So, Israel did not join either?

Later. They did, yes.

Now just as Turkey did?

Yes. Also, Turkey. But I think the Turks joined before Israel.

That I don't know. I only know that both of them are members.

I remember Turkish people in our Executive Committee. But it's too long to remember the details.

And do you see a problem with Brexit? For the future of what the Federation is now?

No idea. I cannot say what will happen. But I must say that the British gave plenty of help to the Federation. From the very beginning.

How long were you in charge of FECS?

Until I retired at GDCh, so it must have been in 1991.

So, you were there from 1970 to 1991. Twenty years.

I was there very long. We even had a lady in the bureau down in Frankfurt which was almost only working for the Federation.

Frau Bröll?

Yes, she still telephones me for my birthday.

You know, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary in Prague also in July, where it all started at the very same day exactly. Same place, same date as 50 years ago. And of course we would like to invite you.*

Thank you, but I will not be able. You know, I am quite well. But I'm 92. And I feel that every day, particularly in the morning although I still get up early.

OK, but nevertheless, you will be with us. We will put some of your words if you allow us?

That will be very kind. Please give my greetings to the assembly, although I don't know if there will be many which will remember me.

But certainly, there will be some. And everybody will have heard about you because you are the founding father of EuChemS.

So, one of them.

Yes. One of them. But an important one.

As I said before, I was the one who insisted that Eastern European chemical societies would be included

Finally, Dr Fritsche showed us the many awards and recognitions he has, and in particular the honorary medal of FECS "For outstanding services to the Federation and for furthering of international cooperation in the field of Chemistry" which we explained to him is the equivalent of our current Service Award, and his nomination from 1993 as Life-long Honorary President of FECS, of which he was particularly proud.

So, you played a very important role.

Not me, our society, which stood behind me. I must say I represented one of the largest chemical societies in the world, together with the British in Europe, and also the Austrians were very active in a way. But it depended in particular on certain persons in Austria, also in Poland and so on.

So, you brought up this Steering Committee?

That was before the foundation. I cannot remember exactly but then we made statutes even and we met sometimes in the East and other times in the West, alternately. And then we decided that the foundation of the Federation should take place in Prague in an Eastern country.

Prague has always played a very important role. And you said also Hungary?

Hungary, Dr Miklos Preisich; at the beginning, we still had the Iron Curtain. But as I said, we had two secretariats, one in Frankfurt, and one in Budapest, and we stood in permanent contact. You see, we were rather the more powerful for handling all of these things. But Dr Preisich was very active and very kind, and it was very good cooperation.

And the members at that time from the eastern countries. Did they have many difficulties to travel? Maybe some of them. But in general, as I said, even the Soviet Union representatives had always permission to take part in the manifestations of the Federation. I mean, that was rather unique particularly because we always said Chemistry is a scientific thing, not a political one.

You had this idea of creating the image of European Chemistry, which is still part of our mission.

I think it was rather successful, and now you celebrate 50 years.

Well, it's a big success. Absolutely.



Wolfgang Fritsche with EuChemS Executive Board member Wolfram Koch in Frankfurt, Germany

* Due to the circumstances derived from COVID-19, the celebration in Prague will not take place in 2020.



MEET...



Laurent Provins is the President of the Walloon Royal Society of Chemistry. He is currently the Director for Medicinal Chemistry at UCB Pharma, Belgium.



Gregori Ujaque is the [President](#) of the Catalan Chemical Society. He is currently the coordinator of the Doctorate Program in Chemistry at the at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.



Carina Crucho is the EYCN Treasurer from the Portuguese Chemical Society. She is a Junior Researcher at the Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal.



Robert-Andrei Țincu is the EYCN science team leader from the Romanian Chemical Society. He is Research Assistant at the Center for Organic Chemistry "C. D. Nenițescu" of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.



NOTES

A milestone

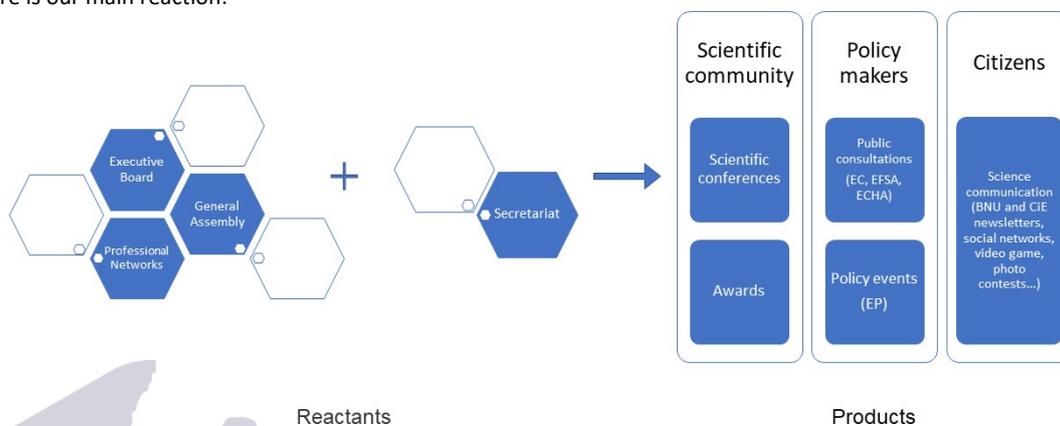
In April, the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) reached yet another milestone: from one full time staff member in 2011, when the EuChemS Secretariat started its work from Brussels, we have come to three full time employees. This growth clearly shows increase of activities and services that the European Chemical Society is offering to its Member Societies, Professional Networks, individual chemists, and the public, mostly through its policy actions, science communication and scientific conferences. The amazing vast amount of work across Europe is being done by very many chemists and those fond of chemistry, on a voluntary base, supported by the Secretariat personnel.

Here is a short insight, neither complete nor detailed, into our secret on how we successfully bring knowledge from chemical and other sciences, as well as from education, to everyday life for individuals and societies in Europe and beyond.

As chemists, we simply apply chemical reaction on our work!

“Chemical reaction, a process in which one or more substances, the reactants, are converted to one or more different substances, the products. Substances are either chemical elements or compounds. A chemical reaction rearranges the constituent atoms of the reactants to create different substances as products.” (Source: <https://www.britannica.com/science/chemical-reaction>).

Here is our main reaction:



At the moment, we have about 197 ($16+19*4+51*2+3$) known different reactants, unsurprisingly leading to very many products. In this contribution, three of them are presented in more detail, while insights into mechanism of the European Chemistry Society chemical reaction(s) are presented at its annual meetings and elsewhere.



Nineta Hrastelj
EuChemS Secretary General



15th EYCN Delegate Assembly in Sitges

The European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN) unites young chemists from 28 European countries and continues to spread their vision as one single voice. The EYCN delegates gathered in Sitges, Spain, on 26–29 January for the 15th Delegate Assembly (DA) and discussed the past activities and planned future endeavours within and beyond the EYCN. Organized by the Catalan Chemical Society (SCQ), the DA welcomed delegates and guests from over 20 countries to exchange knowledge among young chemists in academia, industry, governing bodies, and related networks. Furthermore, the participants had the chance to enjoy an enlightening city tour, led by Dr. Benjamí Oller Salvia, along with traditional Catalan delicacies.

The DA started with welcome addresses from Prof. Charles Bo, SCQ President, Prof. Pilar Goya, EuChemS President, Prof. Javier Garcia-Martinez, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) President-Elect, and Dr. Antonio M. Rodríguez García, EYCN Chair, followed by the EYCN's team introductions and flash presentations of each national chemical society. Over the course of the event, Prof. Pilar Goya, and Prof. Floris Rutjes, EuChemS President-Elect, shared their insightful views on the future of EuChemS. Moreover, Prof. Javier García-Martinez participated in the DA and delivered an inspiring talk about the future of the chemical profession. Dr. Haymo Ross, Editor-in-Chief of Chemistry – A European Journal, and Prof. Federico Bella discussed scientometrics and publishing in top-tier journals. Educating presentations were also given by Prof. David Cole-Hamilton (former EuChemS President), Dr. Bibiana Campos-Seijo (Editor-in-Chief of C&EN), Prof. Sanjiv Prashar (European Chemistry Thematic Network Association – ECTN), and Dr. Aurora Walshe (RSC). Additionally, Prof. Artur Silva (SPQ President) and Dr. Alice Soldà (EYCN Advisor) presented the next EuChemS Chemistry Congress that will take place in Lisbon, Portugal in August 2022.

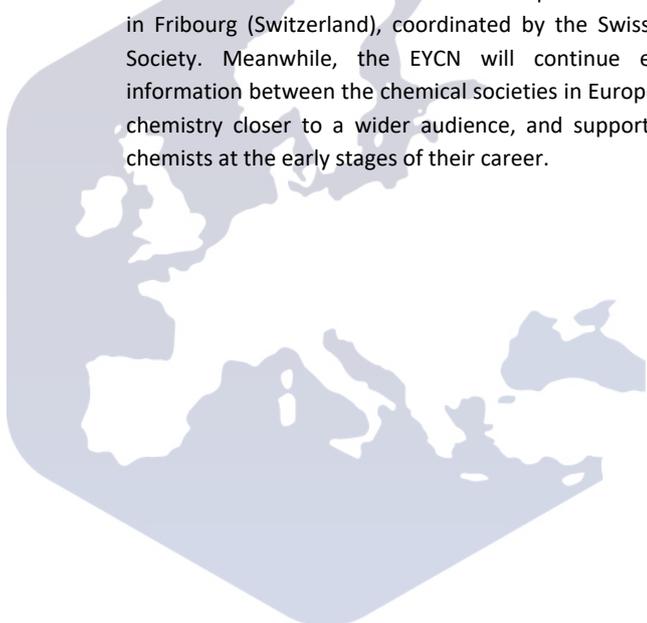
Science policy, publishing and student well-being were three important topics of the DA. The EYCN is actively pursuing to share to policy makers the views of young chemists to raise awareness for the conditions of students. In collaboration with the RSC, the Photochimica 2020 contest was launched during the DA, while the delegates were encouraged to actively promote upcoming competitions, such as the European Young Chemists' Award (EYCA), and the Pint of Chemistry event.

During the DA, Carina Crucho was elected new Treasurer, taking over from Jelena Lazić, and Robert Țincu will replace Katarina Josifovska as Science Team Leader. Furthermore, the 16th DA of the EYCN was selected to take place in Fribourg (Switzerland), coordinated by the Swiss Chemical Society. Meanwhile, the EYCN will continue exchanging information between the chemical societies in Europe, bringing chemistry closer to a wider audience, and supporting young chemists at the early stages of their career.



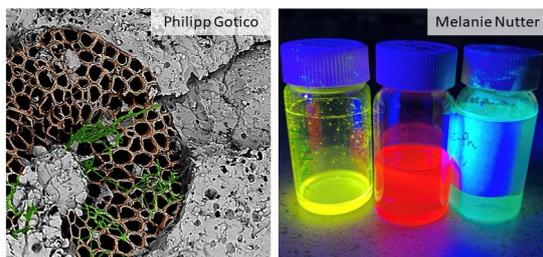
Impressions from the 15th Delegate Assembly in Sitges, Spain (Photo credit: Dr. Javier Garcia-Martinez and the EYCN Delegates)

*Katja Väyrynen and Dimitra Pournara, EYCN Delegates
 Maximilian Menche, EYCN Secretary*



EYCN Photochimica contest: Sustainable Development

Over the past months, the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN) together with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) hosted the 3rd edition of its Photochimica photography contest with "Sustainable Development" as the main theme of the contest. Similar to its previous edition in 2017 (see our Chemistry in Europe article [here](#)), it again attracted dozens of chemists and followers of the network to send in their photos via various social media platforms using the hashtag "#Photochimica2020". The participants were asked to demonstrate a real and important example of sustainability in action, or a recent scientific or technological development that could be improved in a sustainable



Impressions from the 15th Delegate Assembly in Sitges, Spain (Photo credit: Dr. Javier Garcia-Martinez and the EYCN Delegates)

way. The aim of the contest was to further increase the awareness of our consumer behaviour and its influence on the Earth, to bring attention to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and to provide chemists with an opportunity to present their research and/or creativity regarding this vital topic of our lives. The contest was launched on the 27 January 2020 – during the 15th EYCN Delegate Assembly in Sitges, Spain – and enabled the participants to hand in their entries during the coming weeks. The winners were announced on the 22 April 2020, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, to match the theme of the contest. From the over 40 pictures that we received, a combination of two juries formed from EuChemS, EYCN and RSC staff and volunteers selected the two pictures to win the main prizes (see Figure 1) and their twelve favourite pictures which will be showcased in a limited edition calendar for next year. A real must-have!

The two winning pictures are "Out of the Wasteland" by Philipp Gotico and "Glow and behold!" by Melanie Nutter. Together with the winning pictures, following pictures will be printed in the calendar: "Jelly Nanoparticles" (Carina Crucho), "The Cyanobacterial Chamber of Secrets" (Valentina Jurkaš), "Green Lantern" (Kyangzi Calderon Cerquera), "Stingray" (Tatiana Sazanova), "Flower Crystals of 'Green' Compound" (Ozi Adi Saputra), "A Poppy Flower" (Denisa Vargová), "Let There Be Light" (Daniel Cheung), "Diamonds in the Rough" (Christopher G. Thomson), "Light for Our Future" (Luca Schermund) and "A Sprout of Hope" (Philipp Gotico).

Please find the accompanying news piece of the RSC [here](#). Additionally, we will publish more of the submitted pictures in our monthly [newsletter](#).

*Nathan Carpentier, Photochimica Project Leader
 Maximilian Menche, EYCN Secretary*



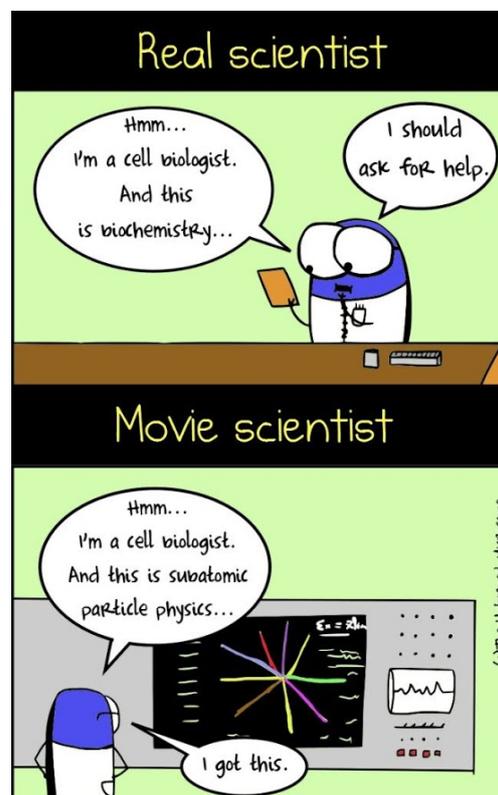
CALENDAR

EuChemS Events calendar is being updated on a regular basis. If you planned to attend an event, you can check more about it here.

In the current environment and status of COVID-19, some events recognised by EuChemS are being postponed or cancelled.

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

FUN FACT



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.

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