

EuCheMS Corner

What is the EuCheMS, Division of Chemistry and the Environment?



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Introduction

The Division of Chemistry and the Environment has enjoyed a close and beneficial relationship with 'Environmental Science and Pollution Research' since 1997. *ESPR* publishes summaries of our meetings, reports and selected papers from our international conferences, special articles on environmental education in our member countries written by committee members and, from time to time, articles explaining the rôle and development of the division. The first of these set out how it was hoped the relationship would work. When we became a Division of The Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) in 1998, the implications of this became the subject of a second article. Progress was reviewed in 1999 and 2000 and a full history of the Division was published in 2002. Recent changes in FECS make an update timely and hence this article.

FECS was formed in 1970 when seventeen societies from countries across Europe declared membership and adopted a constitution. Development led, in 2004, to a revision of the constitution and a change of name to European Association of Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS). It provides a powerful single voice for chemists and the chemical sciences in Europe through its activities and development of policy. The organisation can draw upon significant resources, now having 50 member societies which in total represent some 150,000 individual chemists in academia, industry and government in over 35 countries across Europe.

A list of current member societies is given at **Appendix 1**.

EuCheMS

EuCheMS is an international non-profit association under Belgian law registered in Brussels with the object of bringing together national societies and professional institutions to promote the advancement of chemical and molecular sciences in Europe and neighbouring countries.

To achieve this, EuCheMS:

- Provides a communication forum on matters of common interest
- Promotes collaborative activity
- Maintains high professional, educational and ethical standards
- Disseminates chemical knowledge
- Acts in an advisory, consultative and representative capacity to European institutions and
- Promotes cooperation internationally

It works through a General Assembly, which determines policy, an Executive Committee and a President. A Secretariat administers the Association's business and Divisions and Working Parties are empowered to further the object of EuCheMS.

The Association maintains a Database of Chemical Scientists, recently celebrated three centuries of distinguished European chemists in its Millennium Project and is currently planning the First European Chemical Congress in Budapest on 17th to 31st August 2006. Details of all these and more can be found at the EuCheMS website <http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/enc/fecs.htm>.

Academic and industrial communities in Europe concerned with chemistry and chemical engineering came together in 1995 under the banner of the Alliance for Chemical Sciences and Technologies in Europe (AllChemE) to share common concerns and to develop mechanisms to allow them to deliver better what society expects of them in the 21st Century. AllChemE embraces and represents the interests of CEFIC (the European Chemical Industry Council), CERC3 (Chairmen of the European Research Council's Chemistry Committee), COST Chemistry (European Commissions Chemistry Research Programme), EFCE (European Federation of Chemical Engineering) and of course EuCheMS. For more information see <http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/enc/AllChemE.htm>. EuCheMS is also an Associated Organisation of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Scientific meetings, sponsored events and development of initiatives in specific areas are carried out by Divisions and Working Parties.

Divisions and Working Parties

EuCheMS works through the following groups:

Division of Analytical Chemistry

Division of Chemical Education

Division of Food Chemistry

Division of Chemistry and the Environment

Division of Organometallic Chemistry

Division of Electrochemistry

Working Party on Computational Chemistry

Working Party on the History of Chemistry

Working Party on Chemistry in Microsystems

Working Party on the Conservation of the Cultural Heritage

Working Party on Nuclear and Radiochemistry

and

Standing Committee on Educational, Professional and Ethical Issues (ProChemE)

European Chemist Registration Board (ECRB)

For most individual chemists, contact with EuCheMS is through one or more of its divisions and working parties.

Division of Chemistry and the Environment (DCE)

The idea of forming a Working Party (later a Division) dealing with environmental chemistry was adopted by FECS at its General Assembly in Helsinki on 11 June 1976. The initiative came from Professor Dr. Clément Troyanowsky, then Secrétaire Général of Société de Chimie Physique in Paris. He convened the first meeting held on 8 December 1976 in Paris. Meetings have been held approximately biannually since. A full list of meetings with dates, venues and the names of Chairs is given at **Appendix 2**.

The objectives and mission of the Division are:

- to represent EuCheMS in matters concerning chemistry and the environment, including green/sustainable chemistry;
- to contribute to the advancement of environmental chemistry and chemistry and the environment in the countries of the national member societies of the EuCheMS;
- to promote and support the co-operation about chemistry and the environment issues between the national chemical societies in Europe and their members;
- to identify important areas in science, technology and other human activities relevant to chemistry and the environment, and to stimulate actions in such fields;
- to address aspects of importance in or to chemistry and the environment, which need regulation, harmonisation, standardisation or codification, and to make recommendations as appropriate;
- to promote and support the sound application of chemistry for assessing and solving environmental issues;
- to enhance knowledge and awareness of the chemistry of the natural environment;
- to encourage and inform the responsible management of the impact of anthropogenic chemicals on the environment;
- to encourage co-operation between environmental chemists, in particular within the countries of the member societies of EuCheMS and other international organisations such as IUPAC, ACS, ECTN and ISO;
- to liaise with other EuCheMS bodies and chemical societies in other parts of the World concerning chemistry and the environment;
- to foster close contacts and co-operation of DCE with the European Commission and other relevant institutions;
- to use its best endeavours to promote the status of environmental chemists in general and in the countries of EuCheMS member societies in particular;
- to safeguard the interests of the chemistry and the environment community, especially concerning recognition and legitimisation in matters of regulation and legislation as well as decision making in economic and in social areas;
- to assist and strengthen quality in teaching and training of environmental chemistry in education and in daily practice;
- to support the transfer and exchange of knowledge in the areas of DCE expertise both within Europe and in non-European countries;
- to hold Chemistry and the Environment Conferences and other conferences, symposia and workshops;

- to assume a general promotion and co-ordination functions for conferences, Euro-courses and other events related to chemistry and the environment, and to advocate EuCheMS support or grant DCE support as appropriate in agreement with the Constitution of EuCheMS;
- to disseminate information to the wider scientific community and general public about chemistry and the environment and its achievements.

The Division works through a committee, sub-committees, a Chairman and Secretary. The committee, which meets annually, has 38 members representing chemical societies in 35 countries. The Chairman is Philippe Garrigues of the University of Bordeaux, France and the Secretary is John Holder of the University of Lancaster, UK.



EuCheMS DCE Committee 2004

A Steering Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary, Sub-committee Chairs and two nominated members deals executively with urgent business and meets annually six months before the Divisional meeting to which it reports.

An International Conference Steering Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary and organisers of the current and immediate previous conference deals with conference issues and reports to the Division meeting.

The following sub-committees have been established:

Soil Chemistry and Pollution, headed by Toomas Tenno, University of Tartu, Estonia

Water Chemistry and Pollution headed by Fritz Frimmel, University of Karlsruhe, Germany

Education in Environmental Chemistry headed by Uri Zoller, University of Haifa, Israel

Green and Sustainable Chemistry headed by Ramon Mestres, University of Valencia, Spain

Atmospheric Chemistry and Pollution headed by Gerhard Lammel, Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany

Chemical Toxicology headed by Valery Petrosyan, University of Moscow, Russia.

Cultural and Heritage Chemistry headed by Luciano MorSELLI, University of Bologna, Italy

No.	Date	Place	Title
1	22–26.09.80	Paris/Palaiseau, France	Chemical Pathways in the Environment
2	21–24.05.84	Lindau/Lake Constance, Germany	Air Pollutants Affecting Plants
3	11–14.07.88	Guildford, UK	Risk Assessment of Chemicals in the Environment
4	23–25.08.93	Vienna, Austria	The Challenge of Waste
5	15–18.05.95	Budapest, Hungary	Pesticide Chemistry for Sustainable Agriculture
6	26–28.08.98	Copenhagen, Denmark	Atmospheric Chemistry and Air Pollution
7	27–30.08.00	Porto, Portugal	Metal Speciation in the Aquatic Environment
8	01–04.09.02	Athens, Greece	Chemistry for a Sustaining World
9	29.08 -01.09.04	Bordeaux, France	Behaviour of Chemicals in the Environment
		Planned	
10	04–07.09.05	Rimini, Italy	The Rôle of Chemistry in the Environment: Our Choice Our Life
11	02-05.09.07	Torun, Poland	Title to be decided

The principal business of the Division is, however, the organisation of international conferences on environmental chemistry. A full list of conferences held and planned is shown above.

In addition the Division will be contributing sessions to the First European Chemical Congress in 2006.

The publishers of ESPR, ecomed, host the Division website <http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/espr/EuCheMS>

The Division collaborates with groups in education, toxicology, food chemistry and analytical chemistry and is closely associated with the development of green and sustainable chemistry in Europe. It facilitates communication with and knowledge transfer to countries which have just or hope soon to join the European Union.

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Appendix 1: EuCheMS Member Societies

Albania	Society of Albanian Chemists
Austria	Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker, The Austrian Society for Analytical Chemistry (ASAC)
Belgium	Koninklijke Vlaamse Chemische Vereniging, Société Royale de Chimie
Bulgaria	Union of Chemists in Bulgaria
Croatia	Croatian Chemical Society
Cyprus	Pancyprian Union of Chemists
Czech Republic	Czech Chemical Society
Denmark	Danish Chemical Society, Kemiingeniorgruppen
Estonia	Estonian Chemical Society
Finland	Association of Finnish Chemical Societies
France	Société Française de Chimie
Germany	Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Klinische Chemie, DECHEMA, VAA Geschäftsstelle
Greece	Association of Greek Chemists
Hungary	Hungarian Chemical Society
Republic of Ireland	Institute of Chemistry of Ireland
Israel	The Israel Chemical Society
Italy	Società Chimica Italiana, Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici
Latvia	Latvian Chemical Society
Lithuania	Lithuanian Chemical Society
Luxembourg	Association des Chimistes Luxembourgeois (ACHIL)

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Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Society of Chemists and Technologists
The Netherlands	Royal Netherlands Chemical Society
Montenegro	Republic of Montenegro Chemical Society
Norway	Norwegian Chemical Society
Poland	Polish Chemical Society
Portugal	Portuguese Electrochemical Society, Sociedade Portuguesa de Quimica
Romania	Romanian Society of Analytical Chemistry, Romanian Chemical Society
Russia	Mendeleev Chemical Society, Russian Scientific Council on Analytical Chemistry
Serbia, Republic of	Serbian Chemical Society
Slovak Republic	Slovak Chemical Society
Slovenia	Slovenian Chemical Society
Spain	Real Sociedad Espanola de Quimica, Spanish Society for Analytical Chemistry, Asociacion Nacional de Quimicos de Espana, Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Quimicos de Espana
Sweden	Swedish Chemical Society
Switzerland	Swiss Chemical Society
Turkey	Chemical Society of Turkey
Ukraine	Ukrainian Chemical Society
United Kingdom	Royal Society of Chemistry
Yugoslavia	Serbian Chemical Society

Appendix 2: EuCheMS Division of Chemistry and the Environment Meetings

Date	Place	Chairman
08.12.76	Paris, France	
29.06.78	London, UK	C. Troyanowsky 77–84
11.05.79	Paris, France	
26.09.80	Paris, France	
20.01.84	Frankfurt, Germany	G. J. Dickes 84–90
24.05.84	Lindau, Germany	
05.21.85	Oslo, Norway	
14.03.86	Ghent, Belgium	
31.10.86	London, UK	
09.05.87	Wrocklaw, Poland	
24.03.88	Milan, Italy	
28.10.88	Vienna, Austria	
20.05.89	Szkarska Poreba, Poland (cancelled)	
20.11.89	London, UK	
11.05.90	Urbino, Italy	A. Hackl 90–93
03.05.91	Frankfurt, Germany	
05–06.12.91	Prague, Czechoslovakia	
15.05.92	Budapest, Hungary	
26.10.92	Istanbul, Turkey	
26.08.93	Vienna, Austria	G. Mihályi 93–97
10.12.93	Munich, Germany	
25.11.94	Budapest, Hungary (cancelled)	
19.05.95	Budapest, Hungary	
17.10.95	Vienna, Austria	
04.10.96	Copenhagen, Denmark	
06.06.97	London, UK	A. A. Jensen 97–03
12.09.97	Vienna, Austria	
18.04.98	Bordeaux, France	
17.10.98	Cagliari, Italy	
17.04.99	Bayreuth, Germany	
30.10.99	Bordeaux, France	
04.03.00	London, UK	
26.08.00	Porto, Portugal	
05.05.01	Madrid, Spain	
06.10.01	Nicosia, Cyprus	
06.04.02	Athens, Greece	
31.08.02	Athens, Greece	
12.04.03	Bordeaux, France	P. Garrigues 03–???
08.11.03	Brno, Czech Republic	
17.04.04	Prague, Czech Republic	
28.08.04	Bordeaux, France	
16.04.05	Torun, Poland	
03.09.05	Rimini, Italy	