

The Division of Analytical Chemistry
of the
Federation of European Chemical Societies



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FECS, the Federation of European Chemical Societies, comprises a number of Divisions and Working Parties specializing in certain fields such as Food Chemistry, Electrochemistry or Chemical Education. Among them the Division of Analytical Chemistry, DAC, is one of the largest with respect to the number of Delegates. Each Delegate is appointed by a national chemical society in a European Country. A majority of FECS member societies is represented in DAC; all societies not having established such a link yet are invited to do so. Contacts to analytical communities in non-European countries and to supra-national institutions are provided by 'Observers', and the DAC takes pride in stating that friendly relations and good communication exists with these colleagues and organisations. Delegates and Observers yield a fruitful feedback to their societies and further to the wider analytical community. Recently some Delegates whose advice has been of advantage to the Division over many years have retired. We are sure they will continue to lend their support in the future when needed. The Division is particularly grateful that active and dedicated replacements have been recruited.

Unfortunately the most obvious and very important activity, namely the participation in the open discussion of DAC, at the Annual Meeting, not only depends on the interest of the Delegates but is also a matter of money and time. In this context it helps that every second year the Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with EUROANALYSIS, the European conference on analytical chemistry biennially organized by one of the DAC member societies. The wide scope outline of these conferences offers a thorough overview including highlights in the particular field of interest for each participant, so that there is good motivation for Delegates to attend EUROANALYSIS. By taking advantage of the weekend air fares, Delegates will be where the Annual Meeting takes place and just in time, namely on the Sunday before EUROANALYSIS is opened the next day.

In the years without EUROANALYSIS, the Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with a conference to which it is hoped to attract the largest possible number of Delegates. These are usually more specialized meetings, with the consequence that a number of Delegates and Observers will not be able to participate. 2001 was such a year and we missed about one third of the normal participation at the Annual Meeting. This is all the more regrettable since the event followed a conference on *Education in Analytical Chemistry* which was organized in Córdoba, Spain, as the first joint meeting with the DAC of the American Chemical Society. It brought together 120 scientists and has since then been acclaimed as truly excellent. The participants lived in the secluded *Colegio Mayor* of Córdoba University which provided a perfect location for concentrated and intensive discussions. The friendly team and the superb hospitality of the organizers gave it a very agreeable atmosphere. Unfortunately the meeting started just three days after the terrorist attacks in the USA; this prevented American colleagues from coming unless they were already staying in Europe as was Prof. Gary D. Christian of the University of Washington. The DAC-FECS will continue the cooperation with DAC-ACS and aims to closer relations between the analytical communities on both sides of the Atlantic. The interest and most positive reactions of the participants about the Córdoba meeting has promoted the idea to have a similar joint conference in another part of Europe in about two years time - the first contacts have been made and locations are being explored.

During the 2001 Annual Meeting, the regular reports of the Chairman and the Heads of the Study Groups on the activities, achievements and plans were received and related issues were discussed. Since the Division intends to reduce the purely organisational efforts by defining general rules for repeated tasks, in Córdoba the Delegates agreed on several such guidelines. The Annual Meeting reappointed Prof. Valcárcel as Chairman of the DAC for a second three-years period of office and Dr. Korte as Secretary.

New perspectives might develop from the endeavours to improve the political weight of FECS - in general but with particular respect to the European Commission. As a federation of societies, FECS as such lacks in visibility to the individual chemist when compared to its Divisions and Working Parties. These bodies serve quite specialized communities leaving, at present, core fields such as organic or physical chemistry unrepresented.

The existence and activity of Divisions and Working Parties attract attention more easily via the events held by or associated with them, where usually the participants are addressed on behalf of the organizing and sponsoring bodies. In 2001 conferences were organised 'in cooperation with DAC' in Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Greece, France and Spain. This designation indicates a specific high quality of the meeting and the desire for international participation. DAC's inherently international conference EUROANALYSIS-12 will

take place from 8 to 13 September 2002 in Dortmund, Germany. Before the beginning of the year, online submission of poster abstracts became possible (www.euroanalysis.de) and the programme structure with most of the invited speakers as well as the regular fee and the student fee was published on the web. Poster submission and regular registration are open until 27 June 2002.

The idea of a Grand European Meeting on Chemistry which might attract some ten thousand participants, has been considered and discussed. Recently FECS has set up a Task Force to explore possibilities and implications concerning place and time, interferences with other large-scale events, finances and acceptance and what other constraints are relevant. For the time being the chances and consequences cannot be assessed reliably. During the period of developing the layout of such a FECS congress, the DAC will be glad to contribute to the programme, possibly in the form of topical sessions or a satellite meeting, possibly focussing on analytical aspects related to topics raised by other Divisions or the organizers. However, for the foreseeable future DAC has agreed to keep to the schedule of holding EUROANALYSIS in even years - 2002 in Dortmund, Germany, 2004 in Salamanca, Spain, and 2006 somewhere else in Europe. A letter by the Chairman calling on the Delegates and their member societies to bid to organise EUROANALYSIS-14 for 2006 has been mailed. At the Annual Meeting in September, the DAC will take the decision on the venue.