

Shadowing a MEP



MEP Catherine Stihler (front) with her assistants, Vanessa Ivanov (left) and Alise Askinezere.

David Cole-Hamilton attended a three day training period shadowing Catherine Stihler, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), as part of the “MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme” run by the Science and Technology Options Assessment group (STOA) of the European Parliament. This is his report:

Catherine Stihler works at an incredible pace, rushing from meeting to meeting on all different kinds of topics with her two outstanding assistants, Vanessa Ivanov and Alise Askinezere, briefing her as she goes. It was very hard for me to keep up! Somehow Catherine also manages to read, comment upon and amend all kinds of papers, legislative proposals and other instruments of the Parliament. As the rapporteur for the report of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on the European Semester (assessing the EU’s annual cycle of economic policy guidance and surveillance) she had to draft the report and then ensure cross-party consensus to guarantee that the report is endorsed in IMCO. The report was adopted with a final vote of 26/1 in favour, much to the delight of her colleague on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

We went to several hearings about things like ensuring privacy online, a planning meeting for a forthcoming trip to Ice-

land and a delightful meeting with students from all over Europe where Catherine answered questions, mostly on the Brexit Referendum. There were several visits by lobbyists about where the digital economy is going, how some broadcasters are threatening the rights to broadcast throughout Europe and how lack of forward thinking by national governments can have adverse effects on companies.

We also attended an award ceremony in which Eurodiaconia (a group of faith-based organisations which help the needy in society) honoured Stadsmissionen, Sweden for their work with people living in deprivation and homelessness, and Kofoeds Skole, Denmark for their work in rehabilitating the long term unemployed.

I was given a fascinating tour of the Parliament building by Vanessa and attended a working breakfast on predicting earthquakes. STOA put on a series of highly informative lectures about what they and the many committees do, as well as the different instruments of European legislation.

I had to leave the “wash-up” session, chaired by Paul Rubig, MEP, early so as to meet with Linda McAvan, MEP, who has been spearheading a campaign to get carbon monoxide detectors fitted in all hotels. My final meeting organised by Nineta Majcen was with Slovenian MEP Patricija Šulin for a discussion about standardising limits of intoxicating substances in the blood of vehicle drivers across the EU.

Overall, this was a most fascinating week. I am in awe of the amount of work Catherine Stihler and her assistants do. Their sunny personalities and “can-do” approach really contribute to their success. I am so grateful to them and to all who lectured to us from STOA and the other parts of the Commission and to Zsolt Pataki who did a wonderful job in masterminding the whole event.

David Cole-Hamilton

Invitation to ECC-6 in Seville

Dear all,

it is my great pleasure to introduce the 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress (ECC-6) in Seville this coming September 11th to 15th.



ECC-6 will be Europe’s broadest chemistry conference officially supported by Europe’s national chemical societies. I would like to take this opportunity to describe a little of the events that will contribute towards a programme that we hope you will find exciting and relevant.

There will be eight main science themes each sub-divided into several focused topics covering the breadth of chemistry and allowing space for approximately 400 oral presentations to be selected from submitted abstracts. These will be supported by eight main plenaries, ca. 30 topic plenaries and 90 invited and several award lectures, all presented by leaders in their fields.

The programme includes additional symposia and events open to all conference delegates including the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN), a Latin American symposium and a series of events designed to be entertaining and stimulating including masterclasses (discussing the background, methods and challenges of a topic with a generalist audience), ‘Science in a Bar’ (presentations to a public audience in bars and cafés in the city), as well as the congress social programme and banquet.

We have worked hard to provide a programme which will be a memorable experience for all and we warmly welcome you to join us in Seville in September.

Peter Edwards

Chair of the ECC-6 scientific committee

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EYCN Career Days at ECC-6 in Seville

In keeping with the success of previous years, during the 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Seville in September, the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) will organise a four-day career event specifically designed by and for young chemists.

This satellite event, taking place during the conference (in the same venue and at no additional cost), aims to provide an opportunity for young chemists to expand their soft skills, specifically tailored for each individual career path. This custom-made approach is reflected in four different themes, which are each scheduled on four different, but dedicated, days. All this will allow the participants to enjoy lectures about careers in industry and academia, sessions from the European Young Chemist Award awardees and a workshop dedicated to leadership in the chemical sciences.

Given the success in previous years, EYCN will also organise CV clinics during lunch breaks. These will provide hands-on advice for graduating chemists with tips on cover letter writing, job interview preparation, virtual alter ego creation and will include an on-site CV check.

Additionally, and together with the Career Services of the German Chemical Society (GDCh), a Career Networking Reception will take place enabling young chemists to interact and network with delegates from different chemical companies or research associations in an informal and effective way. All of this will be combined with a drink and a small bite to eat.

All of the events above will be combined with the 6th edition of the Young Chemists Crossing Borders (YCCB) programme, which invites six American young chemists to Seville. These selected finalists will interact with their European colleagues in both scientific and social programmes. Confirmed invited speakers include Fernando Gomollón-Bel, Alexander Schiller and Frédérique Backaert.

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New presidents of national chemical societies



Alain De Mesmaeker



Thisbe K. Lindhorst

photo: Universität Kiel/Stefan Kolbe

Swiss Chemical Society

Alain De Mesmaeker succeeds Peter Kündig as president of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS). De Mesmaeker took over the new role as of 1 January 2016 and has been elected for three years.

After completing his chemistry studies at the Catholic University of Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, De Mesmaeker made his PhD with Professor Heinz Günther Viehe, followed by a post-doctoral research at the Weizmann Institute, Israel. He joined Ciba-Geigy in Switzerland in 1985 and remained for eleven years in central research. In 1997 he transferred to crop protection in the newly formed Novartis agrobusiness, becoming head of chemistry projects in 2000. On formation of Syngenta he became head of optimisation chemistry and subsequently global head of research chemistry. In 2008 he became senior chemistry expert and was promoted to principal fellow in January 2010.

He has published 90 articles that led to more than 50 patents. Amongst others, he is a committee member of the Bürgenstock EUCHEM Conference on Stereochemistry, the Swiss Chemical Society-Syngenta Symposium on Organic Chemistry, the Kontaktgruppe für Forschungsfragen, the Werner Foundation and the Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium.

Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker

Thisbe K. Lindhorst was elected as new president of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh). She follows Thomas Geelhaar and has been elected for two years, starting in January 2016.

Lindhorst is professor for organic and biological chemistry at the University of Kiel. She studied chemistry at the University of Münster, Germany and received her PhD from the University of Hamburg, Germany before going to the University of British Columbia, Canada for her post doctoral research in 1992. She completed her habilitation in 1998 at the University of Hamburg and has been the chair of organic and biological chemistry at the University of Kiel since 2000. Her research interests include biological chemistry of carbohydrates and glycoconjugates and peptides. Among others, she is a committee member and vice president of the Liebig Association, elected member of the German Research Foundation (DFG) research forum, member of the editorial boards of *Carbohydrate Research* and *International Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry* and scientific editor of carbohydrate periodicals within the Royal Society of Chemistry.

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Fillenia Sideri

Association of Greek Chemists

Fillenia Sideri has been elected president of the steering board of the Association of Greek Chemists (AGC) for the period 2016 to 2018.

Sideri studied chemistry at the University of Ioannina and has been professionally engaged in private secondary education since 1986. She is author of a large number of books related to the teaching of chemistry, including the official chemistry textbook of the third class of compulsory secondary education. In the past she has served as the chairwoman of the division of chemistry and education of the AGC and has been a member of the AGC steering committee.



Thierry Randoux

Belgian Royal Society of Chemistry

Thierry Randoux has been elected new president of the Belgian Royal Society of Chemistry.

Randoux obtained his PhD in organic chemistry at the University of Brussels in 1991. He began his career as a head of the analytical laboratory at UCB Chemicals in Drogenbos, Belgium in 1992. In 2001 he

moved to the technical service and development department for radiation curing technology, where he was successively an application engineer for the industrial coatings business and then manager of the graphic arts application group. After the acquisition of the UCB chemicals coatings business in 2005 by Cytec Industries he became R&D manager for radiation curing and then R&D manager for packaging coatings and inks. He joined Certech – a contract research organisation active in environment, materials and process intensification located in Seneffe, Belgium – in 2012 as general manager.



Jerzy Błazejowski

Polish Chemical Society

Jerzy Błazejowski is the new president of the Polish Chemical Society. He will serve as president for the term 2016 to 2018.

Błazejowski graduated from the Gdansk University of Technology and received his PhD and habilitation at the University of Gdansk. In 1992 he was appointed professor by the President of Poland. Since 1994 he has been holding the position of professor of physical chemistry at the University of Gdansk.

Błazejowski has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He held the dean's position at the faculty of chemistry of the University of Gdansk (1991 to 1996) and was a member of various academic and research bodies in Poland, such as the General Council for Higher Education at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (2003 to 2009). Jerzy Błazejowski is currently the president of the Gdansk Scientific Society and a member of the Polish Degrees and Titles Committee.

Coming soon: ECC-6 in Seville

The 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress (ECC-6) in Seville on 11 to 15 September counts on growing institutional support. His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain has confirmed acceptance of the Honorary Presidency. Seville's Mayor, Juan Espadas, has also joined the Honorary Committee, confirming the city's commitment to the congress success. Many topic, plenary and invited speakers have joined the list, presenting an exciting opportunity to enjoy the best chemists at first hand.

Additional events

The 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress will host a lot of parallel events in addition to its official programme:

- John Dalton 250th Anniversary Symposium
- Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones Químicas (FLAQ) Symposium
- Responsible research and innovation in chemical education workshop
- Chemistry & society debate
- Carbon dioxide chemistry – Round table discussion
- Master-classes

The European Young Chemists Network is preparing a programme for young chemists.

Awards & grants

The congress will host the ceremonies and recognition of major chemical awards organised by EuCheMS member societies such as EuCheMS Lecture, EYCN Awards, August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkünze (GDCh Prize) and Europe's leading chemical sector companies. Some European societies will also offer grants to enable young scientists to participate. Further information is available at the EuCheMS member societies.

Social programme

Exclusive venues will host the main congress events including a welcome reception, a concert in Seville's Cathedral, a visit to the Royal Alcazar of Seville, a congress dinner, a chemistry theater, a career networking reception for young chemists and an exhibition. Companies and organisations should check for availability on exhibition booths on the website <http://euchems-seville2016.eu>. See you in Seville for a wonderful celebration of chemistry!

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ISOC 2015 in Camerino

The successful jubilee edition of the 10th International School of Organometallic Chemistry (ISOC 2015) was held in Camerino, Italy in September 2015, sponsored by EuCheMS and the Italian Chemical Society. The event theme was “Organometallic chemistry at the forefront of societal challenges”. The school was attended by 14 plenary speakers, ten senior scientists – members of the scientific committee – and 130 young researchers and PhD students from 20 nations, who presented 88 poster communications, including 42 ones as flash-presentations.

As in previous years the purpose of ISOC was to attract young researchers, post-docs and PhD students from universities and industry in order to transfer knowledge at a high level between different generations of scientists from different countries. The emphasis was placed on the role that organometallic chemistry plays in finding solutions to the major challenges of the 21st century. The topics ranged from sustainable and renewable energies to the mitigation of climate change, from effective drugs to new materials and from industrial production to the solution of environmental problems.

The importance of organometallic chemistry in today's society is highlighted by three Nobel Prizes in Chemistry (2001, 2005 and 2010) awarded to nine organometallic chemists in a period of just ten years. What once was named as sub-branch of inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry now has a top-level role in the world, as documented by a number of magazines and books superior to that of many other disciplines.

The 11th International School of Organometallic Chemistry will be held in Camerino from 2 to 5 September 2017.

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EuCheMS Executive Board

EuCheMS is accepting applications for the vice president, treasurer and two elected members of the Executive Board. Deadline for nomination is 30 May 2016. More information at www.euchems.eu.

Events 2016

10 – 12 May 2016, Munich, Germany

analytica conference

www.gdch.de/analyticaconf2016

12 – 17 June 2016, Gargnano, Italy

“Attilio Corbella” International Summer School on Organic Synthesis (ISOS-2016)

www.corbellasummerschool.unimi.it

3 – 8 July 2016, Vienna, Austria

16th Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids

www.euchem2016.org

3 – 6 July 2016, Torun, Poland

18th International Symposium on Advances in Extraction Technologies & 22nd International Symposium on Separation Sciences

www.extech-iss2016.pl

6 – 8 July 2016, Brussels, Belgium

ChemCH2016 – Chemistry for Cultural Heritage 2016, <http://org.kikirpa.be/chemch2016>

29 August – 2 September 2016, Helsinki, Finland

NRC9 – 9th International Conference on Nuclear and Radiochemistry, <http://nrc9.it.helsinki.fi>

4 – 7 September 2016, Minsk, Belarus

23rd Conference of Isoprenoids

7 – 10 September 2016, Barcelona, Spain

ECRICE – European Conference on Research in Chemical Education, <http://ecrice2016.com>

11 – 15 September 2016, Seville, Spain

6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress

<http://euchems-seville2016.eu>

21 – 23 September 2016, Vukovar, Croatia

International conference 16th Ružicka days: “Today science – tomorrow industry”

www.ptfos.unios.hr/ruzicka/2014

Events 2017

2 – 5 July 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark

4th EuCheMS inorganic Chemistry Conference www.eicc-4.dk

3 – 6 September 2017, York, United Kingdom

3rd EuCheMS Congress on Green and Sustainable Chemistry, www.york.ac.uk/3EUGSC

Host for the 2020 EuCheMS Chemistry Congress

EuCheMS invites its member societies to submit an offer to host the 2020 EuCheMS Chemistry Congress. The EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses are arranged to include, for example, several parallel scientific sessions, to provide exhibition space, to enable posters to be displayed and to have evening events for the general public, as well as opening and closing ceremonies and social events. The 8th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress will follow the congresses of the years 2006 to 2014 which took place in

Hungary, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Turkey and the congresses 2016 in Spain and 2018 in the United Kingdom.

Please confirm by no later than 6 May 2016 if your society intends to submit an offer to host the 2020 congress. The deadline for submitting offers is 8 July 2016. The candidates will present their candidature at the Executive Board meeting in September in Seville.

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EuCheMS Newsletter



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Layout: Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main

Production: Nachrichten aus der Chemie

Publisher: Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS

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