



“
Proud of the past,
ready for the future.”

Fifty years ago, FECS, the Federation of European Chemical Sciences, the predecessor of EuChemS, the European Chemical Society, was founded in Prague on 3rd July 1970 by seventeen chemical societies. EuChemS as we know it now, comprises 51 member societies from 33 countries, and it continues to comply with the founding principles of FECS of building up the European Chemistry community and strengthening the self-consciousness of European chemists. EuChemS has grown to what the founder organizations envisaged half a century ago. Today, in 2020, we commemorate fifty years of our existence without having lost any of the enthusiasm and dedication of the pioneers of this adventure, to whom we owe much gratitude.

EuChemS would not be what it is today without the continuous support of our member societies and the dedication and commitment of so many people along these years, Presidents, Secretaries General, Treasurers, Executive Board members and Professional Networks. We look to the past with pride and to the future with great expectations. Chemistry has the potential to radically change our lives for the better; it helps finding solutions to challenges facing our planet, our environment and our social woes. In other words, it contributes to the achievements of the UN sustainable goals. In this enterprise, EuChemS, as the voice of European Chemistry, has an essential role.

Let me welcome you all at our 50th anniversary celebration and let's honor European Chemistry together!

Pilar Goya Laza
President (2018-2020)



“
EuChemS builds bridges
beyond Chemistry.”

I am writing my contribution for the occasion of 50 years anniversary of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) during Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemia. Very many thoughts keep passing my mind. Most vividly repetitive ones are, expressed in a 'modern' way, #Chemistry #WestEastEurope #Europe #GenderEquality #Inclusiveness #Tolerance #Science #Education #Respect #Collaboration #Diversity. The European Chemical Society is an extraordinary leading example of embracing all these since the very beginning. Myself, coming from an East-European country, find the successful merge of 'both worlds' i.e. East and West Europe, started in 1970, an extraordinary achievement. As a female, I find the European Chemical Society as welcoming gentle environment, inviting all with open arms to contribute with their individual knowledge and experience, while fueling rich diverse input as one voice into different channels that improve citizens' life now and on a long term. In short, I find the European Chemical Society a bright example of great success due to embracing diversity in a respectful way. I am blessed to have the honour to be part of this European story, also as Chemistry has been my profound affection since my childhood.

Wholeheartedly wishing further very many successful decades to EuChemS.

Nineta Hrastelj
Secretary General



EUCHEMS IS INTERNATIONAL

EuChemS is European, and as such, part of global IUPAC and interacts with other regional networks and important national societies from outside Europe, such as the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) or the American Chemical Society (ACS). EuChemS is pleased to represent 51 Member Societies and other chemistry related organisations from Europe and beyond.

EuChemS
European Chemical Society

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50 years
ANNIVERSARY

EuChemS
European Chemical Society

50 years
ANNIVERSARY

WHY A EUROPEAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Chemistry as a scientific discipline has unavoidably significant impact on quality of life of each individual and hence on the entire society. It is essential to pool together all the available knowledge and make it available to others for the benefit of all. This is what the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) does in and for Europe.



EuChemS
European Chemical Society



Wolfgang Fritzsche
Honorary lifetime President of FECS, Chair of Council (1990-1992)

Prague was the city where the Federation of European Chemical Societies was founded and I will tell you the story. The idea to create a Federation was risen by Dr. Eric Parker who was the Secretary of the Royal Institute 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. It was very difficult for me to convince these people that chemistry is a science and not a political issue. But finally I succeeded and everyone agreed to include the eastern societies. And when they joined the Hungarian Chemical Society was very active in particular. 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 Preisch.



Evelyn McEwan
Secretary FECS and EuCheMS (1996-2011)

As Secretary General, I had the privilege of being involved during an exciting time of transition. Underpinning EuCheMS success was the influence of European Communities Chemistry Council (ECCC) of which I was Secretary (1980-2002), guiding incorporation of its remit into EuCheMS. My involvement began in 1975 at the RSC, a founding member of the then FECS and a member of the ECCC created in 1973 to advise EU bodies. With partner organisations, 'ECCC/FECS' created Alliance for Chemistry in Europe (AllChemE) and published

the 1996 report 'Chemistry: Europe and the future', influencing discussions with EU institutions and MEPs. Our new acronym 'EuCheMS' emerged from a brainstorming session led by Reto Battaglia on our strategy for becoming a legal entity in 2006. Other memorable milestones included launching our flagship European Chemistry Congress and publishing 'European Women in Chemistry'. Meanwhile, I took responsibility for our policy consultants in Brussels. And, to fund our increasing activity, we devised a formula for subscriptions from Member Societies.

My lasting memory will be the enthusiasm of all who made FECS/EuCheMS a success.



Reto Battaglia
FECS President (2000-2002)

One of the main discussion points at the General Assembly in Helsinki in 1999 was the dwindling interest of the Chemical Societies in FECS as an institution. I was, as then President Elect, challenged and the Delegates quite clearly demanded "action now" without suggesting what. We decided to go for the highest aim, but of course we realised that a long stretch of motivating and convincing many Boards of the Societies was laying ahead. The decisions taken at the President's Meeting a year later defined the future of FECS: (i) FECS should become a legal entity with all the consequences and (ii) The Hungarian Chemical Society's Delegate and later FECS President volunteered to organise the first European Chemistry Congress in Budapest for 2006. The absolutely central role of this intricate and challenging process was taken care of by Evelyn McEwan of the RSC. Finally, the whole process took six years for our new constitution to be accepted and published in the "Belgian Gazette" and another three years to establish the office in Brussels.



Gábor Náray-Szabo
President in transition from FECS to EuCheMS (2003-2005)

Since one of the FECS secretariats resided in Budapest, I got involved in its activity quite early. The fall of the Berlin wall between the East and the West paved the way towards a closer collaboration for the benefit of all-European Chemistry. In the year 2000 the General Assembly in Rimini decided to transform the Federation from a "club of elderly gentlemen" as some called it, to a professional association with all-European representation. After some years of intensive work, we reorganised it with the new name, European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) in 2004. For me, the term "molecular" was personally illuminating, since I always stressed that, with some important exceptions, chemistry is the science of molecules. I am delighted to hear that recently the name was changed to European Chemical Society unifying an early vision with the mainstream development. It is good to see that EuChemS is now recognised by the chemistry community all over the world, as well as by decision-makers in Brussels and in national capitals. I wish European chemists fruitful and happy next fifty years with nice molecules discovered, synthesized or manipulated to apply them in several ways for the improvement of our life.



Giovanni Natile
1st EuCheMS President (2006-2008)

Initially FECS and then EuCheMS had a pivotal role in helping the Chemical Societies to emerge from their national seclusion and to establish solid partnerships with sister societies so that Europe could develop as a leading scientific area. FECS/EuCheMS has raised awareness of the contribution that chemistry has made in improving people's living standards and providing them with material wealth. In the future, the improvement of human life will increasingly

depend on scientific and technological innovation that will affect all fields of our everyday life such as transport, housing, food, medicine and so forth. Chemistry is central to science as it underpins many areas, including life sciences, new materials and processes, biotechnology and agriculture, all of which require an understanding of the molecular world. However, future scientists should be not only inventive, but also conscious of the society's needs in terms of safety and protection of the environment.

In conclusion, disseminating research results at meetings, honouring important works with major awards, reaching out the public audience, guiding chemical education, and advising governments will be the main tasks of our learned society also for the time to come.



Luis Oro
EuCheMS President (2008-2011)

I chose as vision for my presidency "Creating a European identity among chemical societies". My term of office followed this vision and was characterized by the development and execution of the EuCheMS strategy 2009 to 2013, based on six pillars: strengthening the science base, substantiating policy development events in Brussels, encouraging professional development and networking, promoting effective partnerships, enhancing communication and recognition, and improving decision making in governance and finance. A relevant goal, during my term of office, was to establish EuCheMS as an independent and functional organisation bringing forward a change in the constitution which led to a more effective governance structure and the change of the secretariat office from London to Brussels. The independence and professionalism of the office was further enhanced by the appointment of Nineta Majcen Hrastelj as the new Secretary General in the final year of my presidency.

I certainly believe that the recently redefined European Chemical Society, has not only a rich past but, more importantly, a challenging future.



EuChemS
European Chemical Society



Cristina Todașcă
European Young Chemists' Network (2011-2015)

In 2007 when we elected the first Steering Committee of the EYCN, we did not know a lot about the needs of a European youth network. We could only rely on the experience that each of us have accumulated at the national level. In many cases we didn't have much experience, but we had a lot of energy and we were willing to use it for the growth of this new network. For the first couple of years, we made ourselves known in all EuCheMS member societies. The number of representatives from around Europe increased and slowly we gained experience. Soon we recognized several aspects that the EYCN could contribute to and exponential growth has started. In 2011 we realized that we cannot continue doing all the things that we have started without more support, the five people from the board were not enough. After a long debate during the Delegate Assembly in Aveiro a solution appeared: we should involve more people. This was the moment when we decided to create teams and instead of one person dealing with one aspect, we had now a team and a team leader. The board consisted from that point on from: a Chair, a Secretary and four or more team leaders which operated in the various activities of the EYCN, for the well-being of the young chemists around Europe. A team effort could move mountains.



Anna Trzeciak
Representative of EuChemS Professional Networks on the Executive Board (2018-2020)

Professional Networks play a fundamental role in creation of international scientific cooperation in specialized areas of Chemistry. This activity is monitored by the Executive Board in order to support and to help in solving of eventual challenges. The most efficient scheme of information exchange is based on analysis of annual reports prepared by PNs and collected by the EuChemS Secretariat. Summary of these reports is presented during a General Assembly. It is the best source of knowledge about new initiatives, such as special awards or meetings, workshops etc. Dissemination of the data reported by PNs is inspiring for PNs Chairs and facilitates closer cooperation between PNs.

One of the important topics discussed with Chairs of PNs is their contribution to the European Chemistry Congresses. The task group on this matter was established and as the outcome, a process was agreed for an ECC on top-down and bottom up approach, including contributions from PNs. In the year when there is no ECC, PNs shall have conferences in their particular subfield of Chemistry, which is highly appreciated.



Francesco De Angelis
EuCheMS Treasurer (2010-2016)

Congratulations to EuChemS, for its half-a-century life! I have had the privilege of contributing to its activities on various boards, including seven years as Treasurer, almost since its inception when the EuCheMS designation and the new Constitution have been adopted as an evolution of FECS.

Over so many years, I have witnessed the extraordinary growth of the Association in the years preceding and especially following the transfer of the headquarters from London to Brussels. EuChemS has now become the most representative, listened to and respected voice of Chemistry in Europe. All this is due, among many others, to the foresight and great work of its past and present Presidents and Secretaries General. I would also like to mention the enormous contribution, goodwill and financial support of all EuChemS Member Societies to pursue the objectives of the Association.

Long live EuChemS.



Ulrich Schubert
EuCheMS President (2012-2014)

Most developments of EuCheMS during my presidency, if not all, can be traced back to the earlier appointment of a new Secretary General and relocation of the EuCheMS office to Brussels. This opened many new possibilities for EuCheMS and allowed concentrating on the European dimension of the society. A major building block in this respect was strengthening our contacts to the European Parliament and the Commission, mainly through several events organized in the Parliament and written statements on chemistry-related issues, but also through good personal contacts. A prerequisite for an efficiently working society are

clearly assigned roles of the acting persons and bodies. To this end, the existing outdated Constitution was split in two parts, a brief fundamental part and more flexible and easily adjustable Bylaws. Concomitant with the new Constitution a new voting and subscription scheme was developed and a new type of membership introduced. To support EuCheMS's claim to represent European Chemistry, great efforts were made to ideally getting all European countries involved in EuCheMS activities, especially also the smaller and east-European countries. The Secretariat achieved improvement of the internal communication and information flow by setting up timely communication channels.



David Cole-Hamilton
EuChemS President (2015-2017)

So many congratulations to EuChemS, EuCheMS and FECS for your continuous service to the European chemistry community over the last 50 years. It was my privilege to serve on the Presidential Council from 2014-2019. It has been a tremendous honour and I have met some wonderful people all over Europe. I would especially like to thank Nineta Hrastelj, Secretary General, without whom EuChemS would have made so much less progress for her amazing dedication and hard work. Serving as Vice-President to Pilar Goya as President during the International Year of the Periodic Table was especially rewarding and I hope that we managed to raise the profile of EuChemS within Europe and Internationally, both to chemists and to the general public.

50 EuChemS
1970-2020
European Chemical Society

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YouTube



GENERAL SECRETARIES

1970-1976	M. Preisich (HU) and R.E. Parker (UK)
1977-1983	M. Preisich (HU) and W. Fritsche (DE)
1984-1986	A. Jakabos (HU) and W. Fritsche (DE)
1987-1988	G. Naray-Szabo (HU) and J.S. Gow (UK)
1989-1993	A. Edelenyi (HU) and J.S. Gow (UK)
1994-1995	A. Edelenyi (HU) and T. Inch (UK)
1996-2001	I. Antal (HU) and E.K. McEwan (UK)
2002-2010	E.K. McEwan (UK)
SINCE 2011	N. Hrastelj (SI)

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

Chairs and later Presidents from 1970 until now.

1970	R.E. Parker (UK), Prague (CS)
1971	R.E. Parker (UK), Brussels (BE)
1972	R.E. Parker (UK), Jablona (PL)
1973	R.E. Parker (UK), London (UK)
1974	R.E. Parker (UK), Kesztei (HU)
1975	J.L. Brocart (FR), Paris (FR)
1976	H.C. van der Plas (NL), Helsinki (FI)
1977	H.C. van der Plas (NL), Den Haag (NL)
1978	H.C. van der Plas (NL), Dubrovnik (YU)
1979	H. Malissa (AT), Vienna (AT)
1980	H. Nöth (DE) & H.C. van der Plas (NL), Frankfurt (DE)
1981	V.P. Zubov (SU), Moscow (SU)
1982	G. Berti (IT), Rome (IT)
1983	L. Skattebol (NO), Sandefjord (NO)
1984	W. Fritsche (DE), London (UK)
1985	V.P. Zubov (SU), Fribourg (CH)

1986	V.P. Zubov (SU), Plovdiv (BG)
1987	G. Jommi (IT), Paris (FR)
1988	G. Jommi (IT), Szirak (HU)
1989	G. Jommi (IT), Gent (BE)
1990	W. Fritsche (DE), Frankfurt (DE)
1991	W. Fritsche (DE), London (UK)
1992	W. Fritsche (DE), Warsaw (PL)
1993	R. Darms (CH), Brussels (BE)
1994	R. Darms (CH), Liestal (CH)
1995	R. Darms (CH), Prague (CZ)
1996	L. Niinisto (FI), Athens (GR)
1997	L. Niinisto (FI), Vienna (AT)
1998	L. Niinisto (FI), Istanbul (TR)
1999	L. Niinisto (FI), Helsinki (FI)
2000	R. Battaglia (CH), Rimini (IT)
2001	R. Battaglia (CH), Porto (PT)
2002	R. Battaglia (CH), Poznan (PL)
2003	G. Naray-Szabo (HU), Barcelona (ES)
2004	G. Naray-Szabo (HU), Bukarest (RO)
2005	G. Naray-Szabo (HU), Nicosia (CY)
2006	G. Natile (IT), Moscow (RU)
2007	G. Natile (IT), Frankfurt (DE)
2008	G. Natile (IT), Stavanger (NO)
2009	L. Oro (ES), Interlaken (CH)
2010	L. Oro (ES), Bled (SI)
2011	L. Oro (ES), Beograd (RS)
2012	U. Schubert (AT), Dublin (IE)
2013	U. Schubert (AT), Budapest (HU)
2014	U. Schubert (AT), Toruń (PL)
2015	D. Cole-Hamilton (UK), Vienna (AT)
2016	D. Cole-Hamilton (UK), Seville (ES)
2017	D. Cole-Hamilton (UK), Rome (IT)
2018	P. Goya (ES), Liverpool (UK)
2019	P. Goya (ES), Bucharest (RO)
2020	P. Goya (ES), Prague (CZ)



50 years
ANNIVERSARY

EUROPEAN CHEMISTRY CONGRESSES

The EuChemS Chemistry Congresses (ECC) are prominent events for the European chemistry community. ECCs are the results of an intensive reflection that started in 2000. Today, this joint endeavour attracts every two years around 2000 chemists across Europe to present and discuss the latest achievements in cutting edge chemical sciences.



TORINO
Italy

2008

PRAGUE
Czechia

2012

SEVILLE
Spain

2016



LISBON
Portugal

2022



2006

BUDAPEST
Hungary

2010

NURNBERG
Germany

2014

ISTANBUL
Turkey

2018

LIVERPOOL
United Kingdom

