

From FECS to EuChemS



1970

It all started in the second half of the 1960s, when representatives of Western and Eastern European chemical societies decided to join together and create a federation, quoting one of the founders **“Europe is a geographical term, not a political one”**.

In their own words **“the aim was not only the improvement of scientific and professional cooperation among chemical societies in Europe but also to build up an image of European chemistry in the public, to strengthen the self-consciousness of European chemists and to awake awareness of European chemistry”**. The fact that these aims were very much aligned with the actual mission of EuChemS is a tribute to the foresight of our predecessors. FECS was organized in working parties covering most aspects of the traditional disciplines of chemistry, some of which have the equivalent in our current Professional Networks.



2004

In October 2004, at the General Assembly in Bucharest, it was decided to change the name to the **European Association of Chemical and Molecular Sciences, EuChemS**.

2011

EuChemS started its work from Brussels and the new Secretary General is appointed.



2018

Finally, in 2018 in the General Assembly which was held in Liverpool, our current name **European Chemical Society, EuChemS** was launched. EuChemS expanded the scope and activities of FECS incorporating many new members (chemical societies and supporting members), in addition to establishing new divisions and working parties.

The inaugural meeting was attended by 17 chemical societies and took place in Prague at the University of Chemistry and Technology. A Steering Committee was established which met alternately in East and West European cities to draft statutes and to provide contents for this umbrella organization.

In addition, from the beginning, they were very much concerned with the comparison of the qualifications in chemistry in the different countries so they established the Professional Affairs division anticipating in a way, the Bologna process.

Along the years, FECS continued with the **promotion of European chemistry**, introduced prizes such as the FECS Lectures, and established international links collaborating in the foundation of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies, FACS.

2006

The legal entity is registered in Brussels. The first European Chemistry Congress is held in Budapest.



2014

A new constitution was approved and published in the Belgian Gazette on 28th April 2014. New statutes and bylaws were established including the financial contribution of the members societies based on a quota per affiliate of the member societies, and the headquarters moved to the European District in Brussels.

2020

51 Member Organisations
18 Professional Networks
European Young Chemists' Network
160,000 chemists