

EuChemS Chemistry Congresses (ECCs)

1) Background

The EuChemS Chemistry Congresses must become “must go” meetings for as many chemists in Europe and beyond as possible.

Currently, of the order of 1200 chemists attend from across Europe in addition to those from the host country. The overall number of delegates fell from Nürnberg to Prague to Istanbul partly because of local issues but rose again in Seville, the total number of attendees being about 2000. We must do all we can to enhance the number of people attending from outside the host country.

Chemistry is traditionally taught through sub-disciplines, but a large number of the major modern advances are at the interfaces between these sub-disciplines. If we are really to promote the subject, we must continue to foster the application of different chemistry sub-disciplines to the solution of the major problems that face us. We must show how we can work together to tackle the grand global challenges that will arise. So, it is essential that we should keep the majority of the Congress as an interdisciplinary celebration of chemistry.

The current pan-chemistry model for EuChemS Chemistry Congresses, which will continue in ECC 7, offers the opportunity for scientists to show how important their discipline is to the overall progress in chemistry and allows them to hear about major advances in disciplines other than their own so they can promote how their science can enhance these other disciplines. Still, in order to grow the attendance at the Congresses the following changes apply.

The ECC cooperation agreement signed by EuChemS and the Congress host gives the general framework for the scientific program and associated decision-making, as well as the broad financial responsibilities of both parties.

It is important for the success of the Congress from a reputational and financial point of view that there is clear guidance, supported by enforceable limits, regarding short sessions and satellite events. This guideline therefore also outlines a framework for satellite activities and special symposia at the EuChemS Chemistry Congresses.

2) Structure of ECCs

1. The main structure and *raison d'être* of the Congress remains as it is at present with cross cutting themes designed and populated by the Scientific Committee, who will consult with Professional Networks, Member Societies and Supporting Members as well as more widely
2. After the structure of the Congress and main speakers have been decided, a call will be made for specialist symposia. Where these symposia are from a Professional Network, they:

- a) Must involve preferably two or more Professional Networks
- b) Will be organised in terms of content by the Professional Networks
- c) Must not include speakers already selected for the Congress
- d) Will be timetabled by the Scientific Committee as extra parallel sessions
- e) May be up to one day in length
- f) Must be approved by the scientific committee
- g) May be limited in number by the availability of space.

Participation at specialist symposia shall be monitored and reported in the final report for each ECC.

3) Satellite activities and special symposia at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress

1. Short Sessions

In addition to the plenary and parallel sessions of the core scientific programme it is customary for the EuChemS Congress to include a programme of short sessions. The content for these symposia has ranged from specialised scientific topics, celebrations of national milestones in chemistry and hosting of international delegations to wider questions related to science, education and society. The format of these shorter sessions has included presentations, workshops, master-classes and round-table discussions. The number of short sessions that can be accommodated within the Congress is usually limited by the availability of rooms at the venue.

On occasion there have been tensions as suggestions for special symposia have been made directly to scientific committee members, including the EYCN representative, without consultation with the chair of the scientific committee, the Congress host or the EuChemS Executive Board. This can be an issue if the content of the special symposium clashes with other elements of the Congress programme or with wider concerns of the EuChemS Executive Board. There can also be a lack of clarity and transparency regarding who decides which ideas are selected for short sessions.

2. Satellite Events

Longer “satellite” events have also been organised to coincide with the EuChemS Congress. These can be one or two day meetings, often organised close to the Congress venue.

There have been tensions on occasion because satellite events have been organised without consulting with the chair of the scientific committee, the Congress host or the EuChemS Executive Board. This can pose a risk to the Congress if delegates attend a satellite meeting rather than the Congress itself. There is also an issue if organisers of satellite events derive a benefit from association with the Congress without sharing any of the financial risk connected with the Congress and without sharing any of the rewards associated with their satellite meeting.

The approach to short sessions and satellite events at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress should be based on the following principles:

- We encourage short sessions and satellite events that will benefit the Congress and the EuChemS community
- We assert the role and authority of the chair of the scientific committee, the Congress host and the EuChemS Executive Board

- We cannot predict all possible scenarios and if we try to develop rules to avoid undesirable ones they will be complex and difficult to enforce
- We need a pragmatic approach that is transparent, inclusive and flexible
- We communicate boundaries and consequences clearly

4) ECCs Governance and Management

1. The EuChemS Congress is the flagship meeting of EuChemS. The EuChemS Executive Board has decided that the Congress is a pan-chemistry meeting and part of its aim is to foster interactions across different subfields of chemistry and its interfaces.
2. The venue approved by the EuChemS Executive Board is designed to host such a pan-chemistry Congress. The venue can only accommodate a limited number parallel sessions at one time. This limits the number of Congress themes and special symposia.
3. Final decisions about the scientific programme for the Congress and associated events rest with the chair of the scientific committee, based on a presumption of appropriate consultation with the EuChemS Executive Board and wider EuChemS stakeholders.
4. EuChemS and the Congress host bear substantial financial risk in holding the Congress.
5. The chair and members of the scientific committee, the Congress host and the EuChemS Executive Board invest substantial time in making the Congress a success.
6. The primary criterion in the development of the Congress is scientific excellence, bearing in mind after that, considerations of inclusion and diversity.
7. The chair of the scientific committee, the Congress host and the EuChemS Executive Board are committed to the success of the Congress.
8. Suggestions for short sessions and other events that will enhance the impact of the Congress are welcome.
9. Any individual or group wishing to propose or run a short session or associated event is asked to respect points 1 – 8 above.
10. Any individual or group wishing to propose a short session is required to contact the Congress secretariat in the first instance. There will also be a clear call for proposals for short sessions on the Congress website. These proposals will be considered by the scientific committee in light of the wider scientific programme and in consultation with the EuChemS Executive Board as appropriate. The scientific committee and the EuChemS Executive Board reserve the right to decline proposals to run short sessions.
11. Any individual or group wishing to organise a satellite or any other kind of event in association with the EuChemS Congress is required to contact the Congress secretariat in the first instance. We understand that these proposals will vary in nature and so will consider them on an individual basis. Proposals will be considered by the scientific committee, the Congress hosts and the EuChemS Executive Board. The Congress hosts and the EuChemS Executive Board reserve the right to decline or modify proposals, for example if

- a) they constitute a financial or reputational risk to the success of the Congress
 - b) require significant logistical or financial support from EuChemS or from the Congress host
 - c) the goals of the event are contrary to the priorities of EuChemS
 - d) the organisers of the associated event will derive benefits from that event that are not shared with EuChemS or associated with a reciprocal opportunity
12. All sponsorship of the Congress or an associated event must be handled through the Conference Secretariat. Organisers of associated events are encouraged to propose possible sponsors to the Conference secretariat.

5) Length of ECCs

ECCs should remain 4 days in length, typically running from Sunday afternoon to Thursday

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