

Heinz W. Gäggeler  
*Prof. Dr. phil. nat. Dr. h.c.*  
Chairman  
Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry (DNRC)  
European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS)  
Paul Scherrer Institut  
5232 Villigen, Switzerland  
E-mail: [heinz.gaeggeler@psi.ch](mailto:heinz.gaeggeler@psi.ch)

---



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the  
DIVISION of NUCLEAR- and RADIOCHEMISTRY  
held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 16:30 hrs  
at Grandhotel di Como, Como, Italy**

Those present: Mauro Bonardi (Italy), Nicholas D.M. Evans (UK), Heinz W. Gäggeler (Switzerland, Chair), Horst Geckeis (Germany), Xiaolin Hou (Denmark), Jan John (Czech Republic), Jukka Lehto (Finland), Jerzy Narbutt (Poland), Jon Petter Omtvedt (Norway), Pavol Rajec (Slovakia), Nóra Vajda (Hungary).

Apologies were received from: C. Gascó Leonarte (Spain), Ioannis Paschalidis (Cyprus), Turan Unak (Turkey), Anthony Ware (UK)

Those not present: Alexander Chekmarev (Russia), Divna Djokić (Serbia & Montenegro), Zvonimir I. Kolar (The Netherlands), Panagiotis Misaelides (Greece), Isabel Santos (Portugal), Eric Simoni (France), Gunnar Skarnemark (Sweden), Rayna Stefanova (Bulgaria), Israel Zilbermann (Israel).

1. H. Gäggeler welcomed the participants, introduced new members and passed the apologies from C. Gascó Leonarte (Spain), Ioannis Paschalidis (Cyprus), and Anthony Ware (UK) who sent his best regards to the group and should be present for the next meeting.
2. The Annual Meeting agreed to the Agenda as circulated.
3. The Minutes of the previous DNRC meeting at LASA (Milano) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 were reviewed and approved.
4. General information
  - a. J. John at first reminded the earlier changes in the structure and functioning of EuCheMS (see item 4 in the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting). Then, he presented the conclusions of the Divisions and Working Parties Heads Council meeting that took place at EAWAG Zurich on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The two most important topics discussed were the Strengthening EuCheMS Divisions visibility, and The ECC series beyond ECC-4 – Deepening the involvement of Divisions/Working Parties in the scientific programme preparation. Full Notes of the meeting are available from J. John on request.
  - b. J. John presented the conclusions of the last Divisions and Working Parties Heads Forum that took place in Belgrade on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The most important conclusion was that since now the Divisions/Working Parties are responsible themselves for maintaining and updating their web pages on the main EuCheMS web page. Access to the editorial system was provided to DNRC. It was agreed that the Secretary (J. John) will be responsible for this job. Another news was that up to 3.000 EUR (refundable) may be made available to start up a new activity by a Division and

the respective Procedure notes were approved. Full Notes of the meeting are available from J. John on request.

- c. J. John presented the conclusions of the last General Assembly of EuCheMS in Belgrade on the 13-14<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The topics covered included: EuCheMS strategy update, EuCheMS policy development, EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses and sponsored events, and a “Business session” where financial issues were covered. The Workshops/Breakout Discussions covered the following fields: A. Projects..., B. Horizon 2020, C. Identification of additional sources of funding for EuCheMS projects, D. Open access publishing. No immediate action is required by DNRC. Full Notes of the meeting are available from J. John on request.
- d. H. Gäggeler reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Prague that took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012. DNRC organised there a session on Environmental Radiochemistry that was a part of the symposium “Environment and Green Chemistry”. The programme was as follows:

<b>27.8.</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Co-chairs: H. Gäggeler, Switzerland, and J. John, Czech Republic</b>
		<b>Fukushima</b>
Ikäheimonen	Finland	Environmental effect of the Fukushima accident compared to the Chernobyl accident
Stastna	Czech Republic	Establishing Cs-137 and Cs-134 levels in seawater in the Pacific Ocean between Fukushima and Hawaii
Kuramochi	Japan	Behaviour of radioactive cesium during incineration of municipal wastes contaminated by radioactive fallout from the Fukushima accident
Janata	USA	Nuclear Footprint
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Environmental studies using radionuclides</b>
Ammann	Switzerland	Chemistry on aerosol particles and ice
Zapf	Switzerland	Radiocarbon dating of ice cores
Osterc	Slovenia	Level of I-129 and I-127 in terrestrial environment of Slovenia: a two years study of background areas
<b>27.8.</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Co-chairs: J. John, Czech Republic, and E. Steinnes, Norway</b>
		<b>Speciation of actinides in the environment</b>
Reich	Germany	Environmental applications of XAFS spectroscopy
Denecke	Germany	From micro- to nano-XAS for actinide and lanthanide speciation
Stedtner	Germany	Uranium Chemistry in Citric Acid Solution
Gueckel	Germany	Comparative investigation of the neptunium(V) sorption onto gibbsite by means of ATR FT-IR spectroscopy

The session on Fukushima was attended by some 170 people, the participation in the two following session was smaller.

5. Outlook to the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Istanbul from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

H. Gäggeler proposed to combine with the Division of Life Science Chemistry with a topic “Imaging in Medicine”. In the subsequent discussion

- J. John proposed to include also Nuclear analytical methods in life sciences
- J.P. Omtvedt proposed Nuclear Energy Chemistry as an alternative topic

- M. Bonardi drew the attention to the potential timing conflict with another conference in this field

It has been agreed that DNRC will propose a joint symposium with the Division of Life Science Chemistry with 3–4 blocks including: 1-2 blocks of imaging, 1 block of medical radionuclide production, and 1 block of preclinical studies.

**ACTION:**

HG will contact the chair of the Division of Life Science Chemistry and open the discussion.

6. Future of the Newsletter

H. Gäggeler opened the discussion on the Future of the DNRC Newsletter. The discussion revealed that the prevailing opinion is that we should continue to publish it. With this conclusion, H. Gäggeler offered to compile the Newsletter in 2012/2013 – i.e. till the end of his chairmanship. J. Lehto promised to contribute an article on “50 years of radiochemistry in Helsinki” for the autumn 2012 issue. J. Narbutt promised to contribute an article on new laboratories of ICHTJ.

**ACTION:**

HG will compile the Newsletter in 2012/2013.

JL will contribute an article “50 years of radiochemistry in Helsinki”.

J. Narbutt will contribute an article on ICHTJ laboratories.

7. Procedure for election of a new DNRC chairman starting 2014

J. John reviewed the relevant paragraphs regarding the election of a new chairman as given in the EuCheMS Directives for Divisions and DNRC Procedures and Practices. In line with these rules, “Call for Nominations for the Chairperson” was made at the meeting and will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. This Call will be closed 3 months before the next Annual meeting where the elections will take place. The new Chairperson will assume its office on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**ACTION:**

HG will include the Call in the next issue of the Newsletter.

ALL consider proposing candidates.

8. Selection of a host country for NRC9

- J. Lehto offered to organize NRC9 in 2016, preliminarily in the last week of August. The offer was gladly unanimously accepted. The timing needs to be cross-checked with ECC6 (Sevilla). H. Gäggeler proposed that the International Committee should be at first set-up and discussed well in advance. This committee should have its first meeting in 2014 during RadChem 2014 in Marianske Lazne.

**ACTION:**

JL and HG will jointly propose the composition of the International Committee that will be discussed and approved in DNRC meeting in Brighton next year.

9. Date and place of the next Annual meeting

The next DNRC meeting was agreed to take place during the “Migration” conference that takes place on 8–13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Brighton.

## 10. AOB

- J. Narbutt opened the question whether DNRC should express its opinions on the nomenclature in NRC. No clear conclusion and opinion was reached in the discussion.
- J. John drew the attention to the fact that the membership in the Division reached the lower limit defined by EuCheMS for the Divisions.

**ACTION:**

HG will contact France, Netherlands and Belgium

JL will contact Russia, Bulgaria and Sweden.

Recorded by:

Jan John

DNRC Secretary

E-mail:jan.john@fjfi.cvut.cz