

# EuCheMS

## NEWSLETTER

September 2009

## EuCheMS future strategy

Having served nearly one year as President, it is clear to me that EuCheMS has come a long way as a European Association through developing its strong science base and pursuing effective EU policy activity. However, organisations need to look to the future and EuCheMS is no exception.

Now increasingly seen as an essential partner in European science initiatives, EuCheMS is also taking a more strategic approach to encouraging professional development and networking, enhancing communication and recognition and improving its decision-making structures. As agreed by the Executive Committee in April, seven Task Groups are helping to

- establish and implement a sustainable policy development activity (Chair: Rodney Townsend, Royal Society of Chemistry),
- develop a five-year financial plan (Chair: José Empis, EuCheMS Treasurer),
- identify ways of supporting the International Year of Chemistry in 2011 (Chair: Igor Tkatchenko, French Chemical Society),
- review structure and governance (Chair: Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS Past President),



*EuCheMS President Luis Oro.*

- enhance recognition of EuCheMS by member societies and their individual members (Chair: Franco De Angelis, Italian Chemical Society),
- explore the feasibility of establishing a EuCheMS academy of chemistry (Chair: Jay Siegel, Swiss Chemical Society),
- prepare a vision for EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses (Chair: Pavel Drasar, Czech Chemical Society).

I look forward to welcoming representatives from 50 EuCheMS member societies at the General Assembly in Interlaken in October where we will review our achievements and approve future strategy.

*Luis Oro, EuCheMS President  
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## Centenary of the Italian Chemical Society

The centenary of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) in 2009 is celebrated by different events, characterised by international participation and ranging from traditional fields of chemistry to specific themes such as education, safety and regional interests.

The simultaneity of our centenary with those of other organisations has resulted in several co-sponsorships, e.g. in chemistry and futurism. The most important event was the SCI Congress in Sorrento in July with

about one thousand chemists from universities, industry and research institutions.

During the last years the number of students in the scientific faculties has decreased. Some future projects in cooperation with the Italian Ministries of University, Health and Economy will encourage young people to study chemistry and thus increase human capital needed for innovation.

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## New EYCN steering group

The annual European Young Chemistry Network (EYCN) Delegate Assembly took place on 10 to 11 March 2009 during this year's Frühjahrsymposium in Essen, Germany. With the Swedish Chemical Society as a new member EYCN now consists of 21 member societies and one affiliated member society. In addition, the Delegate Assembly elected a new steering committee for the next two years. Nevertheless, the new steering committee has a challenging task ahead, as the first steering committee was largely responsible for the creation of EYCN.

Taking into account previous experience, some amendments were made to the EYCN rules concerning posts in the steering group. A new position of an advisor was added to the steering committee, which will be occupied by the former chair Csaba Janáky. EYCN's new steering committee is formed by Helena Laavi from Finland (Secretary), Sergej Toews from Germany (Chair), Ilya Vorotyntsev from Russia (Website), Viviana Fluxa from Switzerland (Industry) and Dan Dumitrescu from Romania (Communications).

It was emphasized that the role of EYCN in bridging relations between young chemists and industry should be activated and, in general, networking between members should be intensified. Since EYCN has no bank account there is no need for a treasurer. Therefore the position "Treasurer" was changed to "Industry" and the former position of "Industry/Internet" was changed into "Website".

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The European Association  
for Chemical and Molecular  
Sciences

2

## Prize for chemistry teaching

The Swiss Chemical Society has created a new prize, the Balmer Prize, to award chemistry teachers for innovative teaching at high school level. The award will be given for successful new and experimental didactic approaches to chemistry topics or for outstanding reviews of personal experience. The prize will be awarded annually and consists of either 2000 Swiss francs for an individual teacher, with an additional 2000 Swiss francs for the teacher's chemistry department, or 3000 Swiss francs for a team of teachers, with an additional 1000 Swiss francs for the team's chemistry department. The call for bids and the evaluation of candidates will be carried out together with the Swiss Science Teachers.

[www.scg.ch/news/news.cfm?ID=135](http://www.scg.ch/news/news.cfm?ID=135)

## European chemistry outreach in Bristol

Twenty 16-year-old Italian students and their teachers from Codogno near Milan took part in the inaugural Spring Chemistry School in England. The students spent two days in Bristol ChemLabS enjoying a range of practical work and talks and also took the opportunity to engage in some cultural activities in the first of a series of annual visits.

Another Bristol ChemLabS outreach team, working with the British Council, organised a science week aimed to enthuse French school students from Marseille as part of the 'Science in Schools' programme. In total 370 students aged from 13 to 15 took part in nine half-day sessions. Each session consisted of a one-hour lecture-demonstration in French and English followed by hands-on experience in a workshop. This event was supported by the Centre Universitaire de Saint Jérôme.

A Bristol ChemLabS outreach team visited Malta and Gozo in April to give six performances of the lecture demonstration 'A pollutant's tale' to secondary-aged students from mixed state and church schools. Over 1550 students participated in the shows. A seventh extended session was held for science and education undergraduates at the University of Malta.

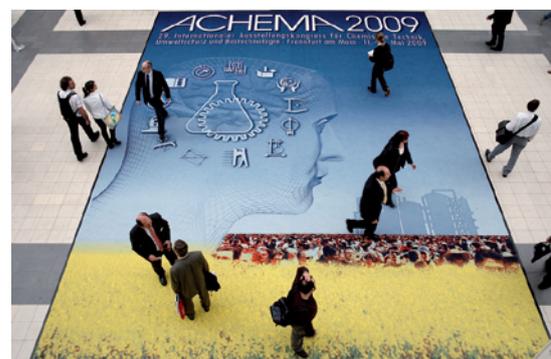
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## Achema 2009 generates optimism

Chemistry and chemical engineering are focusing confidently on the future: this sums up Achema 2009 that took place from 11 to 15 May in Frankfurt. Over 173 000 visitors from all over the world visited the exhibition halls in order to catch up on the latest products and technologies. 3767 exhibitors from 49 countries displayed their cutting-edge developments from chemical engineering, pharmaceutical and food technology, biotechnology and related sectors.

Both the exhibitors and the organisers were highly satisfied with the outcome of the event. "The high number of exhibitors and visitors sent out an unmistakable message that will resound far beyond the Achema: our branches are going to tackle the challenges and leave the economic crisis behind them", stated Gerhard Kreysa, Chief Executive of the Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (Dechema) that organised Achema. Dechema is a member organisation of EuCheMS.

The exhibitors praised the high standard of discussions and contacts. This year's over-



Achema 2009 attracted more than 173 000 visitors.

riding theme was process efficiency. Biotechnological processes and the application of renewable resources were also key topics. Many exhibitors displayed novel microstructured components, while nanotechnology and ionic fluids played a prominent role in the Congress programme. More than 900 lectures attracted scientists and developers to discuss the latest market-ready research results.

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## The Sustainable Chemistry Award

The European Sustainable Chemistry Award, a EuCheMS initiative, is being launched with the encouragement of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the support of the European Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) and the European Chemical Industry Association Cefic.

Nobel Laureates Gerhard Ertl and Jean-Marie Lehn have accepted invitations to be Patrons. The Award will cover innovations in the use of

- alternative synthetic pathways that increase resource efficiency and selectivity,
- alternative feedstocks that are safer and/or renewable,
- alternative reactor design and reaction conditions, such as use of solvents with health and environmental benefits, or increased yield and reduced waste,

- chemicals and chemical products that are less environmentally harmful than current alternatives or inherently safer with regard to hazardous aspects.

The first Award, a prize of 10 000 Euro, will be presented during the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, on 29 August to 2 September 2010 in Nürnberg, Germany. An independent panel will be appointed to consider the nominations.

Requirements for the substantiating documentation and guidance on nominations will be published on the Award website. A short promotional leaflet is available from the EuCheMS Secretariat ([EuCheMSsecretariat@rsc.org](mailto:EuCheMSsecretariat@rsc.org)).

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## Global Helsinki Chemicals Forum

The first Helsinki Chemicals Forum was held from 27 to 29 May in Helsinki, Finland. This meeting involved delegates from many governments worldwide and was organised by the Chemicals Forum Association in cooperation with the EU Commission. It is intended that this meeting should be the first of a series of strategic high level meetings for the global chemical industry; indeed, the second meeting has already been arranged for 20 to 21 May 2010. Helsinki is an ideal venue for the meetings: the European Chemicals Agency is located in Finland and an increasing number of chemical companies are now established there.

The Finnish government signalled its commitment to the meeting through the direct participation of past and present Prime Ministers of Finland, the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Mayor of Helsinki. The European Commission was represented by a large delegation headed by Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for the Environment. The emphasis of the meeting was strongly on the implementation of Reach, the EU regulation on chemicals and their safe use. There

was much discussion of the testing of formulations and mixtures, and possible regulatory successors and delegates were given detailed updates on dialogues with other global power blocks, such as China, India and USA concerning the future implementation of Reach in these countries and federations.

Rodney Townsend of the RSC, current Chairman of SusChem, represented EuCheMS through his presentation and involvement in the session on safety and sustainability, chaired by Alain Perroy of Cefic.

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Photo: Finnish Fair Corporation

*Experiences from Reach were discussed at the Helsinki Chemicals Forum.*

### News for analytical chemists

The EuCheMS Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) maintains a website with information on groups of analytical chemistry at European universities ([www.dac-euchems.org](http://www.dac-euchems.org)). Everyone may contribute to the database and contributors are responsible for an annual update of the information. The service is offered free of charge. The report on activities of DAC during 2008 was published in journals of analytical chemistry where Manfred Grasserbauer contributed with his personal view on analytical chemistry in the assessment of climate changes and sustainable application of the natural resources to human welfare.

In conjunction with the meeting of the steering committee in Tallinn, Estonia, in April, Mihkel Kaljurand and Mihkel Koel of

Tallinn University of Technology organised a successful symposium attended by 51 participants. The symposium illustrated the scientific work of the steering committee directed to various topics of analytical chemistry.

Although affected by the global financial crisis, the Euroanalysis Conference will be held on 6 to 10 September in Innsbruck, Austria. For next year, the programme for the analytical section of the 3rd European Chemistry Congress is in preparation and the Euroanalysis XVI Conference is planned for Belgrade, Serbia, in 2011.

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### Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture

The Swiss and the German Chemical Society, SCS and GDCh, have agreed on creating a joint named lecture, the Heilbronner-Hückel Lecture. Switzerland will begin in 2010 by inviting a German scholar to hold a lecture series in Switzerland, the GDCh will invite a Swiss scholar to Germany in 2011, and so on.

Edgar Heilbronner (1921 to 2006) was a Swiss-German chemist. Erich Hückel (1896 to 1980) was a German physicist and physical chemist. The initiative arose from a cooperation agreement, signed by the two societies in 2008.

### Hubert Mandery appointed as Cefic Director General

The Board of Cefic gave approval to the appointment of Hubert Mandery as Cefic Director General Designate in succession to Alain Perroy on his retirement on 31 October 2009. The appointment is subject to ratification by Cefic General Assembly in Lisbon in October. Hubert Mandery (55) is Senior Vice-President for Trade Policy and General Political Issues at the chemical company BASF. Cefic is promoting the competitiveness of the industry via initiatives and action programmes at a most difficult time for European chemical companies. It is expected that Hubert Mandery will play a vital part in leading these programmes, as well as developing a long-term vision and strategy for the future success of the industry. ks

[www.cefic.org](http://www.cefic.org)

### Brussels News Updates

The monthly News Updates are a valuable source of information about EU-level developments on policy, regulation and legislation. Now in its fourth year, this publication is an essential resource for EuCheMS member societies and the chemical sciences community across Europe. It provides a summary of topical issues and web links to sources of more detailed information, e. g. Cordis, Euractiv and European Commission and EU Parliament websites. Ioanna Psalti is currently the author of the EuCheMS Brussels News Updates.

[www.euchems.org/News/Brussels.asp](http://www.euchems.org/News/Brussels.asp)



## 4

## Year of Chemistry 2011

The preparations for the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011 continue. The IUPAC Management Committee, in which Wolfram Koch represents EuCheMS, met in Bratislava in April and discussed the next steps. The webpage is online and is being updated continuously. EuCheMS recently established a Task Group chaired by Igor Tkatchenko in order to identify opportunities for EuCheMS support for IYC 2011. The Task Group will in particular define ways how the IYC can be promoted in Europe and through which activities EuCheMS can get involved. At the national level, coordination groups have been established in many countries already.

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[www.chemistry2011.org](http://www.chemistry2011.org)

## Swiss kick-off for IYC 2011

At the invitation of the Swiss Chemical Society, the Platform Chemistry of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) and the association Chemie Pharma Schweiz (SGCI), over 30 organisations from education, industry and society gathered in Bern for the kick-off meeting for the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011. Ideas for activities and possibilities of collaboration were exchanged among the 33 organisations interested in making a contribution to the International Year of Chemistry.

Lukas Weber, [weber@scg.ch](mailto:weber@scg.ch)

## Challenges in food preservation

The EFFoST conference on food preservation will be held on 11 to 13 November 2009 in Budapest, Hungary. The conference sessions will focus on processing, safety and sustainability.

[www.fffostconference.com](http://www.fffostconference.com)

## Danisco Award 2008

Barbara Ann Halkier, University of Copenhagen, has received the Danisco Award 2008 for her research into secondary metabolites, which are biologically active substances in, for instance, plants. The Award instituted by the Danisco Foundation represents a value of 250 000 Danish kroner.

Roger Fenwick, [roger.fenwick@BBSRC.AC.UK](mailto:roger.fenwick@BBSRC.AC.UK)

## First Young Investigator's Workshop

European networking for young professors of organic chemistry was the motivation for the first Young Investigator's Workshop, sponsored by the Organic Division of EuCheMS and the Center for Pharmacology and Analysis (Cepha), a Czech contract research organisation. The event, which took place in Liblice Castle near Prague from 16 to 18 July 2009, brought together 28 organic chemistry professors from 18 member societies.

Lecture topics in the two-day retreat spanned chemical biology, synthesis, catalysis, materials and mechanism. The programme and participants showed the cultural and topical diversity that makes organic

chemistry a core to many cross and multi-disciplinary projects and a vital growth area of European science.

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Young professors of organic chemistry from all over Europe met in Liblice Castle near Prague.

## Conferences on chemistry education and didactics in Kraków

The 10th European Conference on Research in Chemistry Education (ECRICE) and the 4th International Conference Research in Didactics of the Sciences (DidSci) will be held on 4 to 9 July 2010 at the Pedagogical University of Kraków. Both conferences will take place immediately after ICASE 2010, the World Conference on Science and Technology Education. Following a long tradition, ECRICE is organised under the auspices of the EuCheMS Division of Chemical Education.

The conferences are an opportunity to exchange experiences in chemical education (ECRICE) and research and practice in natural science education (DisSci) carried out at

every education level from primary school up to graduate studies.

The programme will feature a wide variety of plenary, invited and contributed lectures, as well as poster sessions. Abstracts of oral contributions and posters will be peer-reviewed. ECRICE will be held in English, the DidSci conference in English, Polish, Czech and Slovak. The organising committee of the 10th ECRICE and 4th DidSci cordially invites academicians, doctoral students, science teachers and researchers to participate in these important conferences.

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