



EuCheMS

NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Celebrating chemistry in 2011



Under the official United Nations banner of the International Year of Chemistry 2011, chemists across the world are celebrating the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind. Under the unifying theme “Chemistry – our life, our future”, a wide range activities is under way, intending to reach across the globe, with opportunities for public participation at the local, regional and national levels. EuCheMS has been extremely active in supporting IUPAC and promoting a European dimension to the International Year of Chemistry at two levels, being a catalyst for member societies and a task force for European actions.

The official launch ceremony for the International Year of Chemistry took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 27 and 28 January, incorporating an international seminar, an exhibition and other related social and cultural events.

Well over 1,000 delegates from more than 60 countries were present in Paris and EuCheMS and most European chemical societies attended this important event.

This celebration also marks the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of radium and polonium. In this context EuCheMS is delighted to announce the publication of the book *European Women in Chemistry*.

Edited by Jan Apotheker and Livia Sarkadi and with a foreword by Nicole Moreau, the book is a collection of lively stories about remarkable European female chemists through the centuries, including Marie Curie. This book, presented at the Paris ceremony, addresses one of the main topics of the International Year of Chemistry and is a tribute to all European women in chemistry.

This year is also an excellent occasion to bring to light hidden contributions to science and society at large, emphasizing that chemistry is a creative science essential for sustainability and improvements to our way of life; it presents a unique opportunity to promote, celebrate and advance chemistry in all of its beneficial aspects.

The story of modern chemistry is a human adventure of both mind and action mainly pioneered by European chemists. I certainly believe that European chemistry has a rich past but, more importantly, it has a brilliant future. Thus, the role of European chemical societies, many of them with more than one hundred years of existence, and the catalytic role of EuCheMS will be key elements in the development of chemistry in the future.

Luis Oro
EuCheMS President
oro@unizar.es

International Year of Chemistry launched in Paris

The official launch ceremony of the International Year of Chemistry was a great event – wasn't it? The UNESCO, IUPAC and SCF organisers arranged an excellent mix which dealt with the essentials, showing the capability of solving problems using in-depth chemical knowledge. This was demonstrated e.g. by solar energy conversion used for cooking at night in Indian areas that had not had electricity up to now. It was also impressive to see the huge efforts and success to desalinate water for the use of everyone in deserts e.g. in Arabian countries.

Outstanding people joined the celebration and everybody loved it. Some of our colleagues took their students to the event and it was amazing to see people of every age group from petrol companies, energy deliverers, traditional chemical industry to worldwide cosmetics producers. Academia was also present.

The Palais des Affaires Étrangères, Quai d'Orsay is the center of the communication of the French people to the world. Usually diplomacy is resident there. For the reception evening it hosted representatives of the chemistry community, invited to contribute to mutual understanding too. Many tools were presented to explain and to make visible the service that chemistry offers to our planet.

Don't forget to visit www.chemistry2011.org and the local sites, to participate. In particular, promote the global water experiment and actively approach the press and the public to make this year an extraordinary success.

Erich Leitner, office@elc.at



Launch ceremony for the International Year of Chemistry in Paris.



The European Association
for Chemical and Molecular
Sciences

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A roadmap for the chemical sciences

On 10th February, the European Commission hosted a conference on the implementation of the High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the Chemicals Industry recommendations. Luis Oro, President of EuCheMS, called for a renewed commitment to the recommendations made by the HLG. He pointed to some of the contributions EuCheMS has made, including the awarding of the European Sustainable Chemistry Award, EuCheMS work in the field of education and the role played in supporting the International Year of Chemistry. These contributions have been recognised in the Commission's final report of the HLG.

Luis Oro announced that, "Europe must ensure that it has the right skills and investment structure to take research from the lab to the economy. In order to do this, we will need to see more support for fundamental chemistry research. We also need more chemists and a greater understanding of chemistry for all scientists, engineers and product designers."

Oro also announced that EuCheMS would be addressing one of the main recommendations made by the HLG, i.e. the need for "a road mapping exercise". He emphasized that EuCheMS was uniquely positioned to provide insight, analysis, expertise and foresight in the creation of such a roadmap, identifying critical gaps in knowledge and research that are limiting technological progress. The roadmap will address six key themes: breakthrough science, energy, food, health, water and resource efficiency.

In the afternoon session on human resources, Pavel Drasar presented the work of the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association. Drasar provided information on the progress made on the Eurobachelor and Euromaster quality awards.

Evelyn McEwan, Catherine Feore
catherine.feore@chemistryeurope.eu
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/competitiveness/hlg_conference_en.htm

Women sharing a chemical moment

As part of the International Year of Chemistry, EuCheMS invited three women MEPs to participate in the global handshake "Women sharing a chemical moment in time", a networking breakfast including video conferencing and live web feeds. At the EuCheMS breakfast on 18 January in Strasbourg Edit Herczog (Hungary), Maria da Graça Carvalho (Portugal) and Britta Thomsen (Denmark) answered questions sent in from Hungary, Spain and Sweden. Each of the MEPs was very familiar with the issues of women in science and all are members of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

Maria da Graça Carvalho, who has also been a Full Professor at the University of Lisbon and Principal Adviser to the President of the European Commission, said that much more use could be made of technology to allow women to work from home.

Edit Herczog, who was a research fellow with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and who has worked in both Unilever and ICI Hungary, commented on the low presence of women in private research, estimated at around 18%. Herczog said that companies that had more involvement of women were more successful in the global market.

Britta Thomsen is the author of the European Parliament report "Women and Science" identifying and suggesting solutions for the social, cultural and other barriers



*Breakfast meeting in Barrow upon Soar, UK.
(Photo: Humphrey Perkins High School)*

that account for the under-representation of women in science. She pointed out the positive trend of more women choosing science; however, this has not yet resulted in enough women as science managers or full professors.

The event was part of a global initiative which brought women from 37 countries together for breakfast meetings on 18 January. The approach highlighted the interest for the advancement of women in science and demonstrated that women from Addis Ababa to El Paso are active in chemistry.

Catherine Feore
catherine.feore@chemistryeurope.eu
 More information incl. a 30 min video of this event: www.chemistryeurope.eu

EuCheMS identified key areas in European research

With the support of experts from its member societies, EuCheMS has identified six key areas that should be priorities in the EU Research Framework Programme 8: breakthrough science, food, energy, health, water and resource efficiency. There is a clear overlap with the "Grand Challenges" identified in the Lund Declaration. The EuCheMS report "Chemistry – finding solutions in a changing world" has been submitted to Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn as preliminary input on the fu-

ture of the EU Research Framework Programme. Over the next few months EuCheMS will continue to develop a roadmap for the chemical sciences (see left), to identify the critical areas where gaps in knowledge are limiting technological progress and where the chemical sciences have a role to play in bridging these gaps. The roadmap will inform EuCheMS input to the expected consultation on Framework Programme 8.

www.euchems.org/News/FP8Cons.asp

Electrochemistry: Matysik delivered honorary lecture

The Heyrovský-Illkovic-Nernst lecture was founded in 2002 by the Czech, Slovak and German chemical societies. The aim was to strengthen the scientific exchange among the participating countries in the field of electroanalytical chemistry.

In 2010, Frank-Michael Matysik was entrusted with delivering this honorary lecture in recognition of his contribution in the field of electroanalytical chemistry.

Frank-Michael Matysik graduated with a PhD from the University of Leipzig in 1994. Since 2008 he is Professor at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Chemo- and Biosensors of the University of Regensburg. He has made a number of research visits at foreign universities and has a record of long and useful cooperation with electroanalytical chemists both in the Czech and Slovak Republics, resulting in student exchanges, joint research projects and joint student conferences.

During his visit of Czech Republic and Slovakia in December 2010 he delivered three outstanding lectures covering his broad research interest. At the Charles University in Prague, he talked about nonconventional hy-



Jiri Berek (right) presents the lecture certificate to Frank-Michael Matysik.

drodynamic electroanalytical systems, at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech republic in Brno he delivered a lecture on bioanalytical studies using advanced electrochemical systems and at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava his topic was microfluidic systems in conjunction with electrochemical and MS detection. Rich and useful discussions resulted in the suggestion to further broaden and strengthen the existing cooperation. We thank Wolfram Koch and Barbara Köhler from the GDCh headquarters for their kind help in arranging this tour.

*Jiri Berek, barek@prfdec.natur.cuni.cz
Jan Labuda, jan.labuda@stuba.sk*

How European young chemists promote chemistry

In 2011, together with the commemoration of the International Year of Chemistry, the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN) celebrates its five years of existence. We have high goals for this year, and spreading the beauty of chemistry and material sciences to everyone's everyday life is one of them.

We are very proud to announce the creation of the EYCN Poster Award, an idea introduced by our communications delegate, Dan Dumitrescu from Romania. During 2011, EYCN will be present in many national meetings and symposia, rewarding exceptional and outstanding posters, enlarge our network and promoting the International Year of Chemistry.

Moreover, our national societies have engaged in innovative ways for an extensive promotion of chemistry and contribute to a truly international event. Spain, Portugal, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Germany, Russia and Poland will organise a rich variety of activities: experimental demonstrations in schools, recognition ceremonies, student symposia, young researchers meetings, career days, video competitions and TV series. We warmly encourage you to follow the activities in our news section at www.eycn.eu. And don't forget, the "Everything is chemistry" calendar is still available on our website.

Viviana Fluxa, viviana.fluxa@eycn.eu

Analytical chemistry: Tribute to Ernst-Heiner Korte

It was the privilege of the delegates, guests and observers at the annual meeting in Nuremberg to award the Tribute of the Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) to Ernst-Heiner Korte, who served as DAC Secretary for almost a decade until 2008. He played a major role in editing the DAC statutes, which provide an effective framework for the operation of the Division. His endeavours succeeded in establishing DAC as a major Division within EuChEMs, with a membership of 60,000.

During his time in office, Ernst-Heiner Korte established the Division's homepage (www.dac-euchems.org). He has always been a strong supporter of the Euroanalysis Conferences (www.euroanalysis2011.rs) and shared a vision of analytical chemistry uniting in an integrated conference serving all aspects of the subject. He also organised Euroanalysis 12 in Dortmund which attracted 450 participants. In 2004 Ernst-Heiner Korte promoted the introduction of the DAC Tribute and the Robert-Kellner-Lecture (RKL), which is awarded to scientists in analytical chemistry. The DAC Tribute and the RKL are now well established awards and contribute to achieving the DAC mission. Ernst-Heiner Korte is committed to maintaining contact with other Divisions, to supra-national boards and to linking with similar societies outside of Europe. Thanks to his efforts many guests and observers attend the annual meetings and get involved with DAC activities. Ernst-Heiner Korte represents the Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft, is the Editor of the scientific journal *Accreditation and Quality Assurance* and is networking with many scientists worldwide (www.anchem.su.se/euchems/countries.asp).

*Bo Karlberg, Paul Worsfold, Jens E.T. Andersen
jeta@dac-euchems.org*



Ernst-Heiner Korte (right) receiving the DAC Tribute from Bo Karlberg in Nuremberg.



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Measurement science summer school in Poland

Measurement Science in Chemistry Euromaster (MSC) is a consortium of nine European universities that deliver a Master's Degree Programme offering education in the measurement science. The consortium was awarded the ECTNA (European Chemistry Thematic Network Association) Euromaster quality label in 2008.

An important activity of the MSC is the summer school, an intensive training course of the advanced topics of measurement science in chemistry, e.g. validation of chemical analysis procedures; traceability in chemistry; statistics and statistical basis of calibration; quantification of measurement uncertainty; ISO 17025 quality systems and laboratory assessment; sampling and sample preparation.

The volume of the summer school is 30 ECTS points and the teaching methods range from classical lectures to case studies and role playing. Students get follow-up assignments and their learning is evaluated afterwards. Summer schools have been organised in 2008 (Celje, Slovenia), 2009 (Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria) and 2010 (Lepanina, Estonia).

The summer schools are attended by Master students of the MSC partner universities. For the 2011 edition, a limited number of places are made available to persons who are not enrolled at one of these universities. The minimum requirement for the qualification of a person enrolling is to have a bachelor degree in chemistry. The next summer school will take place from 10 to 23 July at the University of Poznan in Poland.

Philip Taylor, Philip.TAYLOR@ec.europa.eu
www.msc-euromaster.eu

For details on the summer school contact
Danuta Baralkiewicz, danutaba@amu.edu.pl

Events

2 – 4 June 2011, Berlin, Germany

110th Bunsentagung (Annual German Conference on Physical Chemistry), www.bunsentagung.de

21 – 24 June 2011, Paris, France

Symposium of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC), www.chmc2011.fr

3 – 7 July 2011, Brighton, UK

6th International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry, www.ISMSC2011.org

3 – 7 July 2011, Toulouse, France

19th EuCheMS Conference on Organometallic Chemistry, www.eucomc2011.org

6 – 8 July 2011, Gdansk, Poland

Euro Food Chem XVI – Translating food chemistry to health benefits, www.eurofoodchemxvi.eu

10 – 15 July 2011, Crete, Greece

European Symposium of Organic Chemistry (ESOC) www.esoc2011.com

21 – 23 July 2011, Graz, Austria

In Vino Analytica Scientia 2011, www.invino2011.at

27 – 31 August 2011, Camerino, Italy

8th International School of Organometallic Chemistry www.unicam.it/discichi/isoc/isoc2009/index.html

31 August – 3 September 2011, Budapest, Hungary

4th European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences (4th ECCLS), www.4eccls.mke.org.hu

4 – 7 September 2011, Bremen, Germany

GDCh Science Forum Chemistry www.gdch.de/vas/tagungen/tg/5076.htm

4 – 8 September 2011, Granada, Spain

5th EuCheMS Conference on Nitrogen Ligands www.ugr.es/local/nligands

11 – 15 September 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

Euroanalysis XVI, www.euroanalysis2011.rs

11 – 15 September 2011, Zurich, Switzerland

EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment (ICCE2011), www.icce2011.org

13 – 16 September 2011, Novara, Italy

First International Congress on Cocoa, Coffee and Tea, www.cocotea2011.org

14 – 16 September 2011, Madrid, Spain

9th Green Chemistry Conference, www.iuict.net

5 – 7 October 2011, Milan, Italy

CHEM-MED 2011, www.chem-med.eu

International Year of Chemistry in Hungary

In Hungary, the International Year of Chemistry 2011 opened on 26 January. "Fire with water – water with fire" was the slogan of the event initiated by the Hungarian Chemical Society based on the global experiment "Water – a chemical solution".

Several thousand primary and secondary school students participated from 285 schools of 145 municipalities, and carried out

experiments related to water and fire on the same day and in parallel. The best photos and videos can be viewed at a special website (www.kemia-eve-2011.mke.org.hu). In the Hungarian Museum for Science, Technology and Transportation in Budapest special exhibits are waiting for visitors to explore the beauties of chemistry at first hand.

Agota Toth, atoth@chem.u-szeged.hu

EuCheMS Newsletter



Newsletter coordinator: Karin Schmitz

Please send all correspondence and manuscripts to k.schmitz@gdch.de

Editors: Wolfram Koch (responsible),

Uta Neubauer, Frankfurt am Main

Advisory board: Wolfram Koch (Chair, Germany), Luis Oro (Spain), Giovanni Natile (Italy), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS Secretariat), Marie-Claude Vitorge (France), Paola Turano (Italy), Viktor Milata (Slovakia).

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Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS

Postfach 900440, D-60444 Frankfurt am Main
euchems@gdch.de

EuCheMS General Secretary:

Evelyn McEwan, c/o RSC, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA, UK
secretariat@euchems.org
www.euchems.org

EuCheMS is registered as "Association internationale sans but lucratif" (AISBL, international non-profit association)

AISBL-Registered office: Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels