

The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) Division of Chemistry and the Environment (DCE)

Divisional Meeting in Rimini, 3rd September 2005

John Holder reports on the current activities of the EuCheMS Division of which he is Secretary.

The Committee of the Division met in Rimini on Saturday 3rd September 2005 as guests of the Rimini branch of the University of Bologna, the Environmental and Cultural Heritage Division of the Italian Chemical Society and the Italian National Council of Chemists. Sixteen members were present. The meeting was held prior to the 10th EuCheMS-DCE International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, the 9th Italian Congress of Environmental and Cultural Heritage Chemistry and the 13th Italian Congress of the National Council of Chemists, 4th to 9th September 2005.

10th FECS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, Rimini 4th to 7th September 2005 –

Luciano Morselli reported on progress with the organisation of the 10th Conference. To date some 275 participants had confirmed attendance. More were expected to register during the event. There were to be 60 oral presentations, 254 posters and 4 short courses. The Opening Ceremony was to be addressed by Vittorio Prodi MEP and Corrado Clini, Director General of the Italian Ministry of Environment. Social events included a Sagra Musicale Malatestiana concert at the Palacongressi Auditorium, a Café Science in the Piazza Cavour, Rimini's main square, and a Gala Dinner.

Three sponsored cash prizes were to be awarded for the best posters as judged by the International Scientific Committee.

1st FECS European Chemistry Congress, Budapest, 27th to 31st August 2006 –

Two Congress sessions on Environmental Chemistry of two hours each are to be held on 29th August 2006. The Division has identified four eminent speakers to be invited to deliver 30 minute presentations and will seek six high quality 20 minute presentations to support these.

A summary of the session aims has been sent to the Congress Chairman as follows:
Environmental Chemistry has overcome many difficulties in establishing a distinct identity residing as it does between Chemistry, its parent discipline, on the one hand and the natural sciences, Biology and Geology, with which it shares the same biotope, on the other; between studies of the fate and effects of chemicals in the environmental compartments and risk assessments supporting numerous regulations and directives. The European Water Framework Directive and the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals System are the major issues of current concern in the protection of people and the environment. It is of importance to develop not only analytical methodologies to track pollutants and their routes in the environment, but also toxicity assessment methods to estimate biological effects at low dose in very complex matrices.

This symposium will be dedicated to all aspects of Environmental Chemistry.

In addition, the Division wishes to organise a satellite symposium during the Congress at an adjacent venue with talks and posters to complement the Congress. Admission will be free to Congress delegates.

It was noted that EuCheMS plans to hold Congresses every two years and that the second of these will be in Turin in 2008. This will affect Divisional Conferences, which will now be held biennially in the intervening years. In the light of the Budapest experience, consideration will also be given to further satellite symposia at Congresses.

11th FECS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, Torun 9th to 12th September 2007–

Boguslaw Buszewski outlined progress on preparations for the 11th conference to be held at the Nicholas Copernicus University. After consultation, a working title for the conference of 'Environmental Chemistry and Human Activity in Civilization Development' has been agreed. One thousand delegates

are expected to the conference held in conjunction with the Polish Chemical Society, which will organise an environmental/analytical conference in Polish immediately following the event. A postcard advertising the event has been prepared and was to be distributed to all delegates at the Rimini Conference.

It is planned to organise workshops on the following topics: Water Quality Control, Control Aspects of Monitoring from Field to Table, Life Chemistry in Education and Nutrients and Heavy Metals in Environmental Monitoring and Modelling.

The first circular and call for papers will be issued in January 2006.

It was also noted that a report and photograph of the Division Steering Committee meeting in Torun in April had appeared in 'Orbital', the Journal of the Polish Chemical Society.

12th FECS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment 2009 –

A detailed proposal from Åke Bergman to hold the 12th Conference in Sweden in June 2009 in conjunction with the Swedish Chemical Society and the University of Stockholm was approved. The title has yet to be decided but would reflect emerging issues on chemicals and the environment.

Collaboration with other bodies –

The Division received a report from Almut Heinrich, Publisher Editor of 'Environmental Science and Pollution Research' (ESPR), the Division's official journal. An offer was made and accepted to hold the Division Steering Committee meeting at the journal's offices in Heidelberg in the Spring of 2006. The co-operation with Kluwer-Springer has generated new target groups and resulted in many new subscriptions to ESPR. A new subject area on aquatic animal conservation has been added. The Committee was asked to advise on new blood membership of the Editorial Board and noted that Alvin Young has agreed to take over the responsibility as Editor in Chief from Otto Hutzinger who wants to be designated as 'Editor emeritus'.

The journal also supports the Division's website at <http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/espr/EuCheMS> which has recently been updated.

Divisional Chairman –

Philippe Garrigues' first term of office as Divisional Chairman expires on 31st December 2005. He was re-elected unanimously by the meeting for a second term of three years.

Divisional Committee Meeting Autumn 2005 –

The EuCheMS Division of Chemistry and the Environment will hold its next Steering Committee meeting in Heidelberg in April 2006.

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