

PUBLICITY NOTE



FECS Presidents meet in Barcelona

The Real Sociedad Española de Química hosted the largest-ever gathering of Presidents of chemical societies in Europe during the FECS meetings in Barcelona on 2-3 October.

Participants included 48 Presidents or other representatives from 35 chemical societies and professional institutions in 25 countries, together with representatives of other European and international organisations, meeting under the Chairmanship of the FECS President, Professor Gábor Náray-Szabó, Hungarian Chemical Society.

Presentations were given on:

- *The EU Chemicals White Paper and implications for the chemical science community* by Professor Wolfram Koch, Executive Director, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker
- academic/industry interactions within the AllChemE and SUSTECH programmes, by Frank Agterberg, SUSTECH Manager at CEFIC
- IUPAC's initiative *Chemistry's Contributions to Humanity – A Feasibility Study*, by Professor Leiv Sydnes, President Elect of IUPAC.

Professor Antonio Lagana, Chairman of COST Chemistry, reported on his discussions in Strasbourg on issues facing COST chemistry activities following its incorporation within ESF (European Science Foundation) and the importance of ensuring a chemistry domain in ESF.

Dr Richard Whewell, Vice-President of ECTN (European Chemistry Thematic Network, <http://www.cpe.fr/ectn/>) presented the latest proposal for a chemistry Eurobachelor which was endorsed by FECS, with a recommendation that member societies should give support in their respective countries to the emerging Eurobachelor qualification.

Dr Reto Battaglia, Past President of FECS, launched the new FECS Database for Chemical Scientists, with a recommendation that member societies promote this initiative among their members, saying that it would

- become a major source of expertise for chemical science across Europe
- promote networking between chemists across national boundaries and specialist chemical areas
- be a unique resource to identify experts in chemical science for comment and advice on policy issues from the EU

[A separate publicity note on the FECS Database is available.]

On the recommendation of the Italian Chemical Society, FECS established a new working group on Chemistry in Life Sciences, to ensure that FECS can influence this area which has a key role in the post-genomic era and is attracting increasing numbers of young scientists.

Professor Gábor Náray-Szabó reported preliminary arrangements for the 1st FECS European Chemistry Congress, 27-31 August 2006, which included an impressive list of applications to

mount 'hot-topic' sessions, the final selection to be made by the Scientific Advisory Board under the chairmanship of Professor Jean-Marie Lehn.

A FECS Lectureship was awarded to Professor Andreas Manz, Imperial College, London and he will deliver his Lecture during Euroanalysis XIII which is being organised by the FECS Division of Analytical Chemistry in Salamanca, Spain, on 5-10 September 2004.

The FECS Award for Service was given to

- Professor Leiv Sydnnes, Norwegian Chemical Society, and President Elect of IUPAC, in recognition of his significant contribution to European cooperation in chemistry and public appreciation of chemistry
- Professor Wilhelm Fresenius, German Chemical Society, in recognition of his significant contribution to European cooperation in analytical chemistry.

[Separate publicity notes are available on the Award for Service.]

A discussion group examined ways in which FECS societies could cooperate in promoting chemistry as a subject of choice at university and in improving the image of chemistry as a career among young people; while the numbers of young people studying chemistry at school are relatively stable in several countries, in many countries the numbers opting for chemistry at university countries are continuing to decline. A second discussion group explored issues affecting the movement of highly qualified young scientists from EU countries towards the US and from the candidate countries towards the west and towards the US. The creation of a legal entity for FECS to enable it to hold a centralised budget and support future FECS projects, including activities to influence EU decision makers, was discussed by a third group. Reports on all three discussion groups will be posted on the FECS web site

The following applications for FECS membership were approved:

- Russian Scientific Council on Analytical Chemistry
- Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici
- Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Quimicos de España
- ANQUE – Asociacion Nacional de Quimicos de España
- DECHEMA
- VAA – Verband angestellter Akademiker und leitender Angestellter der Chemischen Industrie e.V

Further information on FECS is available from Evelyn McEwan mcewane@rsc.org or on the web site www.fecs-chemistry.org - the AllChemE web site is www.allcheme.org

Note: The Federation of European Chemical Societies and Professional Institutions is a voluntary association, the object of which is to promote cooperation in Europe between those non-profit-making scientific and technical societies and professional institutions in the field of chemistry whose membership consists largely of individual qualified chemists/chemical scientists and whose interests include the science and/or practice of chemistry/chemical sciences. It was founded in 1970 and currently has 50 member societies in 38 countries.

President Professor Gábor Náray-Szabó (Hungarian Chemical Society), Lorand Eotvos Univ., Pazmany Peter st. 1b, H-1117 Budapest Tel: +36-1-209-0555/1630 e-mail: naraysza@para.chem.elte.hu

Immediate Past President Dr Reto Battaglia (Swiss Chemical Society), Swiss Quality Testing Services, P.O.Box 252, CH-8953 Dietikon 1 Tel: +41 1 277 3140 e-mail: reto.battaglia@sqts.ch

Secretariat Ms Evelyn McEwan, Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA Tel:+44 20 7440 3303 Fax:+44 20 7437 8883 e-mail: mcewane@rsc.org