

## "What is past is prologue"



As new President of EuCheMS, I am very pleased to provide the editorial of our publication *Chemistry in Europe*. We begin 2018 full of enthusiasm and initiatives that we hope will be to the great advantage of chemistry and society. I start my adventure accompanied by an excellent team in the Executive Board, the invaluable support of the General Secretariat, and the continuous

dedication of the Professional Networks. Their members are the core of our association, and it is thanks to them that we can advance in improving chemistry in Europe.

EuCheMS will therefore continue to act as a supranational organisation focussed on:

- increasing the visibility of chemistry at the European level by speaking with one single voice;
- presenting chemistry as an essential and indispensable provider of solutions for global challenges;
- complementing national activities on a transnational level through networking, holding our European Chemistry Congresses and participating in science policy development.

In short, if I were to describe EuCheMS in simple words I would use the terms subsidiarity and solidarity.

Subsidiarity is understood here in the sense that EuCheMS will take action when it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. For example offering advice to the European Commission (on climate change or funding for example); running parliamentary workshops (as we have already done on employability, antibiotic Resistance, glyphosate), and by writing articles and declarations, which have the added value of being endorsed by the national societies (recently against the use of chemical weapons, chlorine in warfare and the European chemist's desires for post-Brexit.)

But EuCheMS is also about solidarity. We can pair big and small, more and less endowed societies, not so much in monetary terms, but by integrating them into a bigger community to address the challenges chemistry will have in the future. EuCheMS is therefore a good example of the holistic concept: the whole (EuCheMS) is more than merely the sum of its parts (the national chemical societies).

A good example of this added value is our position paper on "Research and Education Without Borders After Brexit". In this document, EuCheMS highlights that research and industrial competitiveness across the EU greatly benefit from the input of UK researchers and vice versa, and so we urge the negotiators to maintain a relationship that is as strong as possible between EU and UK scientists. We have already involved other associations in endorsing this document, and so our supporting member, the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC), has already joined.

All these initiatives illustrate that EuCheMS provides a unique voice of chemistry and tries to place it at the heart of European policy. EuCheMS must continue in the future to develop and extend what it has done in the past. Quoting from a speech by the President of ACS, delivered in 1907 but which still prevails today, "we should all work in harmony to the end of the formation of a grand organization of chemists that shall be a power for the greatest good to the profession and to mankind".

*Pilar Goya Laza*  
EuCheMS President

## Join us in Liverpool

Registration is now open for the 7th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, an exciting five days full of opportunities to share ideas and strengthen connections, taking place 26–30 August 2018.

This year, the Royal Society of Chemistry will host the congress at the ACC in Liverpool, a major, heritage-rich city in the UK.

Under the theme of molecular frontiers and global challenges, we will be exploring a wide selection of topics designed to spark in-depth discussion – from biological catalysis and new approaches to clean fuels to smart polymers and molecular machines.

We have already confirmed plenary speakers including Frances Arnold, Ben Feringa and Jin-Quan Yu, who will feature in the main programme. Enriching the congress further, delegates can also look forward to an ancillary programme of workshops, lectures, symposia and discussions organised by EuCheMS member societies and members of the Royal Society of Chemistry. We also have a congress strand dedicated to the European Young Chemists' Network.

If you're interested in showcasing your work as part of an inspiring and varied congress, we will be accepting poster abstracts until 16 April.

Submit your abstract and register at [www.euchems2018.org](http://www.euchems2018.org)

Follow @EuCheMS\_2018 for updates

We hope to see you in Liverpool.

*Bengt Nordén*  
ECC7 Scientific Committee Chair

*Tom Brown*  
ECC7 Scientific Committee Co-chair

## POLICY

## The regulatory role of ECHA

Did you know that ECHA's RAC met to draft an opinion on dodecyl methacrylate under the CLP Regulation?

Aside from the chemistry part, assuming that you are a chemist, there is a good chance that the question above is unintelligible to you. Nonetheless, it is deeply related to the work of chemists, innovators, and to everyone's lives. Just as an example, the chemicals present on the screen of the device that you are using to read this article were certainly approved through ECHA. ECHA's workflow is an extremely complex subject, especially when you look into how concrete dossiers are processed but, hopefully, by the end of this article you will understand my initial question while having an overview of how the safety of chemicals is assessed within the European Union.

### ECHA's creation and mandate

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is one of many agencies in the European Union, which are separate legal entities created to perform specific tasks under EU law. ECHA, which is based in Helsinki, Finland, was set up in 2007 by the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation as the entity that should "provide the Member States and the institutions of the Community with the best possible scientific and technical advice on questions relating to chemicals"

falling under the scope of the REACH Regulation. Over the years its mandate has grown and



ECHA is also responsible for the management of the Regulation on "Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures" (CLP Regulation) since 2009; the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) since 2012; and also for some of the tasks of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation since 2014 (even though this regulation is from 2012). The common ground for these regulations is the fact that they legislate chemicals with the purpose of assuring healthy environments while boosting competitiveness. As formulated by ECHA itself in its mission statement, this agency aims to be the "driving force among regulatory authorities in implementing the EU's groundbreaking chemicals legislation (that is REACH, CLP, BPR, and PIC regulations) for the benefit of human health and the environment as well as for innovation and competitiveness. ECHA helps companies to comply with the legislation, advances the safe use of chemicals (...)

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2DQbJxa>

Bruno Vilela

EuCheMS Public Affairs Officer

## RESEARCH

## Academia: an ivory tower or a lighthouse?

Much has happened in the State of Israel since the dramatic press conference of January 31, 2017, in which Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav breached the Supreme Court directive and exposed the classified "Professors' Report" (also known as the "Keinan Report") that recommended emptying the 12,000-ton liquid ammonia tank located in a densely populated area in Haifa Bay. The past year has seen more than 1000 newspaper articles on the ammonia affair, hundreds of TV and radio discussions, public debates, rallies and mass demonstrations of angry citizens, and the story is far from over. All three levels of the Israeli court system – the Haifa Magistrate Court, the District Court and the Supreme Court – have decided decommissioning of the old ammonia tank and banning marine imports of bulk liquid ammonia to Israel.

Many organisations became involved, including associations of workers, manufacturers, engineers, students, municipalities, non-profit organisations, political parties and eight government ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office. It has been a remarkable demonstration that a group of ten university professors who refused to take any compensation (...)

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2neVklh>

Ehud Keinan

The Schulich Faculty of Chemistry, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

## EuCheMS at the EC circular economy mission to Columbia

EuCheMS was part of the Circular Economy Mission, which took place in Colombia on 16 – 19 October 2017. The delegation was led by the Director General for the Environment of the European Commission, Mr Daniel Calleja, and included almost 70 representatives from European companies, agencies, research centers and associations. Circular Economy Missions are high-level political and business meetings outside the EU aimed at communicating and promoting sustainable and resource-efficient policies worldwide. Europe is particularly interested in consolidating links with Colombia, in an effort to support the ongoing reconciliation process after decades of conflicts. The process is opening great opportunities for green development, in a country with plentiful natural resources. The main part of the mission took place in Medellín, a modern and quickly growing metropolis, far away from the old cliché of sanctuary for drug traffickers. The EU delegation met the municipal and regional authorities, which are promoting policies for sustainable development and can take advantage of experience and best practice in Europe. B2B meetings with companies and (...)

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2Eb4f5n>

Nicola Armaroli

EuCheMS delegate to EC circular economy mission to Columbia

## MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

## The future of science in the 21<sup>st</sup> century



The European Academy of Sciences (EURASC) organises each year a Ceremony of Awards, honouring scientists for their high-level research work in different fields of

science.

The ceremony of this year, hosted in the Lisbon Academy of Sciences and organised by Rodrigo Martins, (chairman and EURASC Vice-President) and Alain Tressaud (co-chairman and EURASC President), has been accompanied by the remarkable symposium *The Future of Science in the 21st Century: Science and Technology for the Better Future of Humankind*, which took place in Lisbon, 26 – 27 October 2017. Invited speakers gave talks to a multidisciplinary scientific audience to discuss high-level research subjects. Industrial companies also attended to show how innovative research is transformed into value-added products.

The aim of the symposium was to discuss the future of science and technology where citizens will increasingly play a key role, envisaging new roads and scientists who may be keen to follow.

The opening by Alexandre Quintanilha, a Member of the Portuguese Parliament, discussed the role of curiosity-led enquiry and the importance of being open to challenge when providing answers. European Research Council (ERC) awarded researchers presented their ground-breaking work with a debate also on (...)

You can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2nd21eS>

*Luísa Margarida Martins*  
 Portuguese Electrochemical Society

*Augusta Maria Paci*  
 National Research Council of Italy

## Is it my duty to know how chemistry is taught in Lisbon, in Riga or in Shymkent?

Members of staff in higher education are usually involved in the development of the local teaching program. They get information about how chemistry is taught in other places through meetings, staff exchanges and activities in national accreditations bodies. Becoming a member of the Panel of Experts, is another way to gather information on chemistry programs internationally.

The holder of the Chemistry Quality Eurolabels – Chemistry Eurobachelor®, Chemistry Euromaster® and Chemistry Doctorate Eurolabel® – is the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTN). The two-decade-old organisation has around 150 members, mostly European universities. The labels, endorsed by EuCheMS, can be received through an accreditation process organised by the Label Committee of ECTN. An application is assessed by a three-member team, where the members are chosen from the around 35 names of Panel of Experts. The



decision is complex according to differences between national rules and international guidelines. It is often amended with an advisory role, especially if site visit takes place for new applicants. Mostly persons active in former applications became the members of Panel of Experts after taking part on a coaching event.

*Gergely Tóth*  
 Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Secretary for External Matters -  
 Label Committee of ECTN

## WHO IS WHO



Nicola Armaroli, Elected Member of EuCheMS Executive Board as of 1 January 2018. Nicola Armaroli is a Research Director at CNR, the Italian National Research Council (CNR).



Yves P. Auberson, President of the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC). Yves P. Auberson is Executive Director in Global Discovery Chemistry at the Novartis Institute for BioMedical Research in Basel, Switzerland.



Nicola Armaroli, Elected Member of EuCheMS Executive Board as of 1 January 2018. Nicola Armaroli is a Research Director at CNR, the Italian National Research Council (CNR).



Aline Auroux, Chair of the Working Party on Chemistry and Energy. Aline Auroux is Emeritus CNRS research Director at the Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse et l'Environnement de Lyon.

## NOTES

**Promoting Chemistry to the Public - Photochimica 2017**

Photochimica 2017 was last year's edition of the photography contest organised by the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN). The EYCN is the young chemists division of EuCheMS and promotes chemistry around Europe by organising events like Photochimica and the video contest "Chemistry Rediscovered". 35 photos from eleven countries from around the world were submitted in the competition for the best contribution (Austria, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, UK, and USA). The photos were judged by young chemists from the Science Team and Board of the EYCN. Further, a professional photographer from Poland, Wojciech Bibel, was part of the jury. The jury awarded four prizes and a Mention Award.

The theme of last year's edition of Photochimica, "Radioactivity", was chosen to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Maria Skłodowska-Curie, arguably the most famous female scientist in the world. Maria Skłodowska-Curie changed the way of thinking about women in society. Although Becquerel discovered radioactivity, it was only the discovery of radium by Maria Skłodowska-Curie that made it possible to create a science about radioactivity, which was the basis of modern views on the structure of matter. This fundamental discovery has led to many more developments in science and society. Medicine, chemistry, and physics were the areas that first used the discovery of radioactivity, soon joined by geophysics, astrophysics and other fields of science and industry (...)

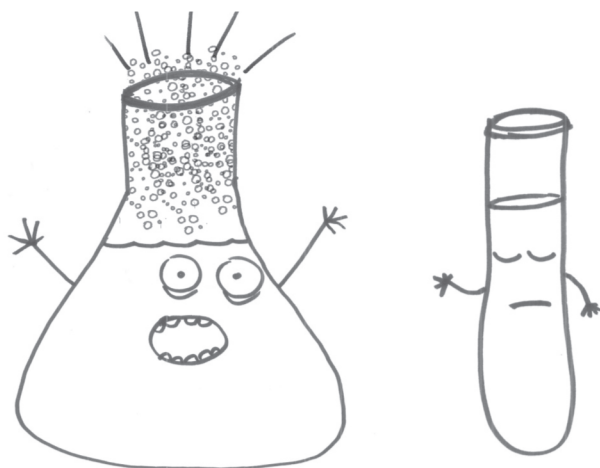
*you can read the entire article at <http://bit.ly/2GiPAWt>*

*Hanna Makowska  
EYCN Science Team Leader  
Yacintha Vermeer  
EYCN Science Team Member*

 <http://on.fb.me/1B8Qa0n>

 <https://twitter.com/EuCheMS>

## FUNNY



*- I don't feel stable!!!  
- You are overreacting*

## CALENDAR

**16EPI - 16th Iberian Peptide Meeting / 4GEQB - 4th Chemical Biology Group Meeting**

5 – 7 February 2018

Barcelona, Spain

**Website:** <https://eventum.upf.edu/>

**ChemCYS 2018 – 14th Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists**

21 – 23 February 2018

Blankenberge, Belgium

**Website:** <https://chemcys.be/>

**EuCheMS Executive Board Meeting**

27 – 28 February 2018

Berlin, Germany

**Website:** <http://www.euchems.eu/>

**Belgian Peptide Group Meeting (BPGM)**

28 February – 1 March 2018

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://www.bpgm.be/>

**International School of Process Chemistry (ISPROCHEM)**

8 – 11 April 2018

Gargnano, Italy

**Website:** <http://www.isprochem.unimi.it/>

For the complete list of events please visit our events calendar at [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)



## COLOPHON

**Editorial Board**

David Cole-Hamilton, Pavel Drašar, Pilar Goya, Nineta Hrastelj (responsible), Marta Kucza, Santiago Luis, Torsten John, Karin Schmitz, Cristina Todasca, Bruno Vilela (coordinator).

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