

**Policy and Secretariat report**

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**RELEVANT POLICY NEWS**

**EuCheMS Solar-Driven Chemistry**

EuCheMS white paper on Solar-Driven Chemistry has recently been finalised and will soon be made public with the aim of showing EuCheMS vision on this topic to policy-makers and society in general.

**EuCheMS-JACI Meeting**

EuCheMS met with JACI (the Japanese Association for Chemical Innovation) on the 14 June. JACI presented their main activities which includes, among other, setting a strategy for chemicals every 5 years; promoting green and sustainable chemistry; supporting young researchers; organising symposia; promoting higher education-market skills match. Ulrich Schubert presented the activities of EuCheMS. JACI showed interest in Green and Sustainable Chemistry, on European Union's decision-making process, and on how EuCheMS influences European policy. They were also very interested in the outcomes of the EuCheMS' Solar-Driven Chemistry project. The meeting ended with both parties showing interest in future collaboration and exchange of ideas regarding global challenges.

**Source:** EuCheMS Minutes

**Chemists Urge Israel to Ban Chemical Weapons**

The President of the Israeli Chemical Society, Prof. Ehud Keinan, has published an open letter urging the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by Israel. Israel, Egypt, Southern Sudan (who plan to sign) and North Korea are the only countries of the 196 recognised countries that have not signed and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention which provides for the supervised elimination and monitoring of all chemical weapons under the auspices of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). EuCheMS President David Cole-Hamilton says: "I applaud Prof. Ehud Keinan's brave action. Chemical weapons have no place in a civilised society. They do not act as a deterrent and their effects are appalling. We have a unique opportunity to rid the world of this scourge and we are so close to doing it. EuCheMS calls upon Prime-Minister Netanyahu to ratify the CWC as soon as possible and for Egypt, Southern Sudan and North Korea to follow this inspiring lead".

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

### **EuCheMS and RSC on the Outcome of the British Referendum**

Following the vote by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, both EuCheMS and the UK's Royal Society of Chemistry have reinforced their commitment to diversity, inclusivity and to the collaboration among learned societies in Europe. As mentioned on a EuCheMS letter to RSC, "We believe that EuCheMS will continue to be of very great importance to the RSC since it will provide one of very few mechanisms by which the RSC will be able to influence European policy concerning chemistry".

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### **Roadmap on Catalysis for Europe**

The [European Cluster on Catalysis](#) has recently published the Roadmap on Catalysis for Europe, a roadmap to which EuCheMS as well as two of its Members, [ENMIX](#) and [ERIC](#), contributed. The European Cluster on Catalysis was launched by the European Commission and gathers EU-founded projects in the field of catalysis, organisations and institutions as well as industrial and other relevant stakeholders in catalysis at EU level. The term catalysis encompasses in this particular framework different typologies and declinations of catalysis: heterogeneous, homogeneous, photocatalysis, electrocatalysis, biocatalysis and others as well as the corresponding technologies, such as CO<sub>2</sub> utilisation, artificial photosynthesis, biogenic materials, water technologies. The Roadmap on Catalysis for Europe can be [downloaded here](#).

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### **EuCheMS Response to Public Consultation on Horizon 2020 'Science with and for Society'**

EuCheMS has recently submitted a [response](#) to the Public consultation on Horizon 2020 'Science with and for Society' Work Programme 2018-2020 (SWAFS). These contributions to the present consultation will feed into preparation of the next SWAFS Work Programme 2018-2020, which will be developed by the European Commission during the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. The 'Science with and for Society' Programme addresses the European societal challenges tackled by Horizon 2020, and aims to create new ways of connecting science to society.

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### **ABCChem Agreement - EuCheMS, ACS, SBQ, CSC, SQM, FASC, SACI, FLAQ**

EuCheMS signed a cooperation agreement regarding the organisation of a common Chemistry Conference, ABCChem, with the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Brazilian Chemical Society (SBQ), the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC), the Mexican Chemical Society (SQM); the Federation of African Societies for Chemistry (FASC), the South African Chemical Institute (SACI), and the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ).

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

### **Slovak Presidency Programme**

Slovakia started its Presidency of the Council of the EU in July 2016, a role which will have until the end of the present year. According to its programme, one of the main topics of the Slovak Presidency in the field of research is support for young researchers. The Presidency aims to adopt Council conclusions on measures to support young researchers with a focus on increasing the attractiveness of scientific careers, encouraging mobility and investing in human potential in the field of research and development. The Presidency also envisages to work upon the Commission's European Defence Action Plan which should, among other, stimulate research in this field. The Slovak also Presidency also intends to start the trilogues with the European Parliament following the European Commission's submission of the second package of legislative proposals on copyright

reform, a package aiming to ensure the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market.

Source: <http://www.eu2016.sk/en>

### **H2020 Priorities for 2017**

Later in July, the European Commission confirmed the calls and other actions of the second year of the two-year work programmes setting out Horizon 2020 funding opportunities for 2017. The Work Programme for 2017 will have a stronger focus on Open Science, making open research data the default setting for H2020 projects; it will also focus on circular economy; personalised medicine; and on pan-European research infrastructures. The calls and other actions under the current [work programme](#) updates have a budget of €8.5 billion.

Source: <http://europa.eu/>

### **SHORT SUMMARY FROM RELEVANT POLICY EVENTS IN BRUSSELS & ELSEWHERE**

#### **UNESCO Science Report Towards 2030**

The UNESCO Science Report was recently presented at a STOA Workshop in the European Parliament. This quinquennial report counted with the collaboration of more than 50 experts and focuses on long-term trends, covering more than 100 countries, thus providing an insightful picture of science, technology and innovation.

The workshop counted, among others, with the participation of Paul Rübige, Chair of European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA), Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission. The 800 pages report can be found here and the executive summary can be read [here](#).

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/>

#### **European Innovation Council Workshop**

With a participation of around 150 people, this workshop intended to provide further input from civil society ([following a call for ideas](#) whose respondents were mainly from research, around 40%, against around 30% of respondents from industry) into the creation of a European Innovation Council, with a "co-design" approach as mentioned António Vicente, Head of Cabinet for Commissioner Moedas. He also mentioned that there are some regulation constrains regarding the creation of EIC under H2020 but that this "constrained experience" will be used to enhance EIC under FP9. This input towards EIC in FP9 will already start with the mid-term evaluation of H2020. EIC must be an enabler for innovation so that Europe might reach the level of USA, which currently have >100 "unicorn" start-ups (start-ups whose value is over \$1bn) in comparison to the 19 European "unicorns". After the initial presentations, four main themes (awareness and accessibility; Funding Opportunities; Proposal evaluation; Follow-up of the grant, mentoring) were discussed within groups. there were 10 groups, consisting of 15 people with diverse backgrounds: business angels, regional authorities, evaluators, industry, research, etc. Each group had a rapporteur from the commission who facilitated debate and presentation of ideas. A report with the presentations outcomes of the workshop was published at the page of EIC (a copy can be found at the folder of this report). More info can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm> .

Source: EuCheMS report

**OTHER ATTENDED EVENTS**

**STOA Workshop - Waste Management**

15 June 2016

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

**Homage to Mariano Gago**

29 June 2016

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://www.cienciaviva.pt/>

**4th International Congress Chemistry for Cultural Heritage**

7 July 2016

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://org.kikirpa.be/chemch2016/>

**SOME UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**European Parliament - ITRE Committee**

26 September

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

**European Parliament - ENVI Committee**

29 September

Brussels, Belgium

**Website:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

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