

FECS (Federation of European Chemical Societies) Division of Chemistry and the Environment: News & Views

The promotion of the former Working Party of Chemistry and the Environment to be a FECS Division was approved by the General Assembly of the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) held in Istanbul, Turkey, 17-18 September 1998. The Editorial in *ESPR* Vol. 5 (1998), No. 4, p. 197 reported on the activities of the new FECS Division of Chemistry and the Environment.

The first meeting of the Division took place in Cagliari, Sardinia, on 17 October 1998 following the joint Italian Chemical Society/EU Conference on "Water in the Mediterranean Area". A brief report of the conference follows (→ p. 66).

The Seventh FECS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment "Metal Speciation in the Aquatic Environment and the Biological Implications" will take place in Porto, Portugal on the 27th to 30th August 2000. Details may be found on the conference webpage (<http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/lab/8007/fecs2000.htm>).

European Green Chemistry Award

The FECS Division has been asked by the European Environment Agency to spearhead a European equivalent of the American Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards Program. The intention is to have an award scheme ready for year 2000. Such an award could be a tool for improving the image of chemistry.

The first meeting of the Planning Group on a European Green Chemistry Award was held at the European Environment Agency (EEA), Kongens Nytorv 6, DK-1050 Copenhagen K. on 8th January 1999.

All participants at the meeting strongly supported the EEA award initiative. The geographical area should be whole Europe as covered by FECS and EEA, not only EU.

"The Green Chemistry award is for those who help achieve significant improvements in the eco-efficiency of chemical processes, products and services, so as to achieve a sustainable, cleaner and healthier environment and a competitive advantage." Eco-efficiency is defined by OECD and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Time table: The award is due to be announced in the summer of 1999, at the CEFIC assembly in June and/or the Green Chemistry conference in Oxford, July 1999. The deadline for nomination is likely to be 1 February 2000. The first awards could then be made in August 2000 during the FECS Conference in Porto, Portugal.

Background: The EEA is a European body concerned with collecting and disseminating the of best available environmental information for better decision making and public information. The main clients are the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States, and these com-

prise its Management Board. The EEA's remit extends beyond the EU to whole of Europe.

The EEA sees the proposal of the establishment of "a European Green Chemistry Award" as a part of their remit to "stimulate the exchange of information on the best technologies available for preventing or reducing damage to the environment". The case studies from the award process will be disseminated via its "EnviroWindows" publicly accessible database. The EEA has invited FECS to have a similar role as the American Chemical Society has with the US Award.

UK Green Chemistry Network (GCN): There is tremendous amount of support for green chemistry in the UK. The RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) funded "UK Green Chemistry Network" at York University began its work in May 1998. It will promote awareness and facilitate education, training and the practise of the green chemistry concept in industry, academia and schools. Network activities include:

- Educational materials
- Newsletter books
- Training courses
- National database
- Conferences and seminars
- Technology transfer
- Links to other organisations

The New Chemsoc Web Site, incorporating information on all national chemistry societies, has been launched by the Royal Society of Chemistry. One of the most popular features on the chemsoc web site is the "Conferences and Events Database" which can be found at:

<http://www.chemsoc.org/events/conhome.htm>

The database already contains details of over 800 meetings and events worldwide. Through this easily searchable Database you can advertise your society's meetings free of charge, by completing the on-line submission form at:

<http://www.chemsoc.org/events/post.htm>. You can also include any conferences run by FECS Divisions/Working Parties.

After your meeting has been listed on the Database, you can update the information by sending an e-mail to: events@chemsoc.org

If you would like more information about the Database, please contact Dr. Sarah Vallance at the Royal Society of Chemistry, on e-mail VallanceS@rsc.org, tel. +44-171-440-3375, fax: +44-171-437-8883.

Allan Astrup Jensen, Division Chairman

John V. Holder, Division Secretary