

FECS Division for Chemistry and the Environment

Committee Meeting in Bayreuth, Bavaria on April 17, 1999

John V. Holder

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The Committee met in Bayreuth, Bavaria on April 17 1999. The meeting was hosted by the University of Bayreuth and was held in conjunction with the First International Symposium on Atmospheric Reactive Substances (14-16 April), the proceedings of which will be published shortly. Significant points to emerge from the conference were the difficulties experienced in measuring the global abundance of precursors to reactive substances, the problems of differentiating between natural and man-made sources and the absence of the expected correlation between mutagenicity and the concentrations of benzo-a-pyrene and ozone.

The Committee was honoured to welcome as an observer to its meeting Prof. Valery Petrosyan from Moscow University who is Head of the Russian Ministry of the Environment's Federal Centre of Environmental Chemistry, Head of the Russian Seminar of Chemistry and Toxicology and a Member of the SETAC Europe Council. He expressed the wish that FECS and SETAC would work more closely together in future. A second honoured guest was Almut Heinrich from *ecom*, Managing Editor of this journal, who brought a message of positive collaboration from the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Otto Hutzinger. Our third honoured guest was Heide Brito of Chemetall GmbH.

Two further symposia have been announced. The **17th International Symposium on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons** will be held at the University of Bordeaux, October 25-29, 1999 and an International Symposium on Filtration and Separation of Fine Particles Suspensions in Vienna, November 10-12, 1999. Further information may be obtained from the **ESPR-FECS website** (<http://www.ecomed.de/journals.espr>).

Guidelines on how to obtain **FECS Sponsorship** (non-financial) for events have been issued. If you are organising a major environmental conference or other event and would like it to be sponsored by and publicised through FECS, you can obtain further information from Evelyn McEwan at the Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN.

The First Announcement and Call for Papers for the **Seventh FECS International Conference** on Chemistry and the Environment, subtitled "Trace Metal Speciation in the Aquatic Environment" has been issued. Anyone interested should visit the **ESPR-FECS website** (Conferences) or the conference website (<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/8007/fecs2000.htm>) or contact committee member Maria-Teresa Vasconcelos at the University of Porto.

The **Eighth FECS International Conference**, subtitled "Chemistry for Maintaining Environmental Quality and Improving Human Life" will be held in Athens in 2002.

The European Environment Agency has asked FECS to be its partner in developing **European Green Chemistry Awards** by the year 2000. The awards will be similar to but broader

than the American Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards. The Division will form a sub-group of experts to develop the awards and seek funding. Meetings have taken place between the Division's Chairman, Allan Astrup Jensen and representatives of the British Green Chemistry Network. German industry has expressed concern over the use of Green in the title because of possible confusion with the Green Party. It is likely that the award title will be translated as "Sustainable Chemistry"

in countries where this is a sensitive issue.

Further Division **sub-groups** on Atmospheric Chemistry and Education will be formed. Anyone interested should contact committee members Hartmut Frank and Toomas Tenno respectively.

The Division will shortly publish on the **ESPR-FECS website** a compilation of major **text books** on environmental chemistry.

The Committee now has members from thirty European countries including candidate states for EU membership, who would be willing to assist in partner searches for environmental projects seeking Framework 5 funding.

The **next committee meeting** will take place in **Bordeaux in October 1999** and it is hoped to hold the following meeting in London.



From left, standing: Tenno, Höflinger, Jensen, Mestres, Siskos, Facchetti, Holder, Frank, Petrosyan, Salkauskas; sitting: Heinrich, Herve, Garrigues