

FECS DCE

The Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) – Division for Chemistry and the Environment (DCE)

Committee Meeting in Madrid, 5th May 2001

John Holder reports on the current activities of the FECS Division of which he is Secretary.

The Steering Committee of the Division met in Madrid on 5th May 2001 as guests of the Spanish Chemical Society. For economic reasons, full meetings of the Division have been reduced to one per year with the Steering Committee consisting of the Division officers and elected members also meeting once annually to prepare for decisions and deal with urgent business. These meetings are, however, open to all Division members able to attend and twelve members in total were present.

The FECS Executive Committee meeting held on 2nd/3rd April 2001 in Brussels was discussed. The meeting had been tense and there had been a proposal from the President of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) for the creation of a European 'Union of Chemical Societies'. The FECS Chairman was concerned that member societies should support the development of existing structures and not the creation of a new one. He had contacted Divisional Chairmen seeking support. There were discussions concerning moving towards centrally funded operations for FECS with dedicated staff and financial support from member societies. The latter would vote whether to be involved in this way or opt out of FECS. It was felt that greater influence could be exerted on the European Commission especially in respect of the content of the Sixth Framework if lobbying were carried out through the AllChemE organisation, which also includes the chemical engineering disciplines.

Nominations were sought for the FECS 2002 Lecturer. This is a prestigious lecture requiring a speaker of international repute. The lecturers in 1999 and 2000 have both been Nobel Prize winners. It is hoped to hold the event in conjunction with the 8th FECS Conference on Chemistry and the Environment 'Chemistry for a Sustaining World' in Athens, 31st August to 4th September 2002.

A report was received on the **Green Chemistry – Sustainable Products and Processes** conference held in Swansea 3rd to 6th April 2001 in which the role of education had been a major theme. The RSC Green Chemistry Awards had been made at the event.

The Second Announcement and Call for Papers for the FECS sponsored **First Baltic Symposium on Environmental Chemistry** to be held in Tartu, Estonia on the 26th to 29th September 2001 was issued. The symposium has deliberately set a low fee to attract delegates from the Baltic states and other parts of eastern Europe. Publicity for the event will be placed on the Division website at <http://www.scientificjournals.com/espr/feccs>. **Selected papers** will be published in *ESPR – Environmental Science and Pollution Research*.

A breakaway group in France is attempting to create a European Environmental Chemical Society with direct membership. The group calls itself the 'Association of Chemistry and the Environment (ACE)'.

There was discussion of the **9th FECS Conference on Chemistry and the Environment** to be held in Moscow in 2003. The topic would be **Chemical Stresses in the Urban Environment**. The first announcement is expected to be ready for issue at the next Divisional Meeting in Cyprus on 6th October 2001.

During 2000, the membership of the Division has increased from 32 to 34 members representing chemical societies in 31 countries. A full list of members and their affiliations is given on the website.

Also on the website are abstracts from the 7th FECS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment: Trace Metal Speciation in the Aquatic Environment, details of the 8th Conference in Athens and the Divisional Annual Report.

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Second Announcement and Call for Papers
First Baltic Symposium on Environmental Chemistry
Tartu, Estonia, 26 – 29 September 2001

Under the auspices of:

The Federation of European Chemical Societies, Division of Chemistry and the Environment ♦
Estonian Chemical Society ♦ University of Tartu

The symposium topics include:

Sustainable Chemistry – Green Chemistry ♦ Anthropogenic Chemicals in the Environment ♦ Soil Analysis, Quality and Remediation ♦
Water and Sediment Analysis, Quality and Treatment ♦ Education in Environmental Chemistry

Symposium secretariat:

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