

EuCheMS Division of Chemistry and the Environment

Europe's Energy Policy depends on Chemistry

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EuCheMS – the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences is a non-profit making association. Its object is to promote cooperation in Europe between those non-profit-making scientific and technical societies and professional institutions in the field of chemical sciences whose membership con-

sists largely of individual qualified chemists/chemical scientists and whose interests include the science and/or practice of chemistry / chemical sciences. It was founded in 1970 and currently has 50 member societies in 36 countries.

EuCheMS welcomes the publication of the Commission's Communication on an Energy Policy for Europe, setting out an Action Plan of measures to achieve the objective of becoming the world's most energy efficient region. The new European Energy Policy aims to be ambitious, effective and long-term; success will be dependent upon the chemical and molecular sciences.

Energy, which accounts for 93% of carbon dioxide emissions in Europe, is at the root of climate change; advances in chemistry will have a significant role to play in reducing these emissions and in transforming Europe into a highly energy efficient and low CO₂ energy economy. Boosting investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy will be key to developing the EU as the global leader in renewable technologies; advances in the chemical and molecular sciences will support energy efficiency in homes and industries, as well as the development of effective renewable energy technologies.

EuCheMS is pleased that the Commission, in catalysing a new industrial revolution, will increase by at least 50% its annual spending on energy research over the next seven years. Research

in chemistry will be essential to the future development of a number of key low carbon technologies, including solar power, fuel cells, hydrogen as a fuel, safe nuclear waste management, carbon capture and storage, energy storage and energy efficient lighting.

EuCheMS believes that Europe is ideally placed technologically, economically and socially to demonstrate a successful low carbon economy. Chemistry will play a vital role in delivering sources of sustainable, secure and competitive energy, and in accelerating the competitiveness of low carbon technology. It is vital that future low carbon technologies are developed as soon as possible. It is also important that the EU skills base in science, engineering and mathematics remains strong so that the human as well as the financial resource is available to meet the challenges ahead.

To support input to future discussion of the contribution of chemistry to Europe's Energy Policy, EuCheMS has established a new working group on Chemistry and Energy, led by Richard Pike, CEO at the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The Communication from the Commission 'An Energy Policy for Europe' can be found on the web at http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/doc/01_energy_policy_for_europe_en.pdf

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An Energy Policy for Europe**

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