

1st Swiss COST Chemistry Symposium

'Coopération Européenne dans le domaine de la recherche Scientifique et Technique'

November 20, 1996

Chimia 51 (1997) 19
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ISSN 0009-4293

Introduction

COST (a French acronym for 'Coopération Européenne dans le domaine de la recherche Scientifique et Technique') was set up in 1971 to stimulate and to give a

framework for the European cooperation in the field of science and technology. This forum of research brings now together 25 European countries including the

members of the European Union, of the EEE and seven central and eastern European states.

The goal of this symposium was to present to the Swiss scientific public the progress of the research of the Swiss group in this European collaboration after three years of activities. The program consisted of seven invited lectures (see them below) by prominent European and Swiss scientists and 68 posters communications from Swiss scientists active in COST Chemistry.

Chimia 51 (1997) 19-20
© Neue Schweizerische Chemische Gesellschaft
ISSN 0009-4293

Chemistry: Europe and the Future

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Chemistry and chemical engineering are core sciences which lie at the heart of the scientific innovation which underpins Europe's successful industries. The future welfare and prosperity of European Society will be crucially dependent upon our continuing ability to generate new scientific knowledge and to achieve the successful commercial exploitation of this new knowledge in world markets. A strong and diverse science base coupled with versatile, flexible and entrepreneurial process industries will be necessary to ensure Europe's success.

Industry and the world academia stand ready to play their full part in making a successful future – but government must play their part too. Firstly, we look to governments to establish regulatory regimes which – whilst offering society the

necessary level of protection – nevertheless place the prime emphasis on scientific discovery and the innovative application of new technologies. Secondly, governments have an important role to play in guiding and sponsoring novel research programmes by the judicious use of public funding, and we regard the European R&TD framework programme and procedures of scientific cooperation in Europe as good examples of such initiatives. Recently, in recognition of the need for concerted action by chemists and chemical engineers in both academia and industry to secure Europe's future, we have taken the step of formalizing an alliance which we called 'AllChemE'.

The community of chemists and chemical engineers in Europe is represented by five organizations promoting in complementary ways chemical sciences and technologies in areas of basic research and applied research in connection with the industrial world, education and training. They are all concerned with the develop-

ment of science and technology policy in Europe. These organizations are:

- CEFIC (European Industry Chemistry Council) for the chemical industry,
- CERC-3 (Chairmen of the European Research Council's Chemistry Committees) for the national research agencies,
- COST (European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research; Technical Committee for Chemistry) for the networks of laboratories and researchers,
- ECCC/ FECS (European Communities Chemistry Council / Federation of European Chemical Societies) for the learned and professional societies of chemistry,
- EFCE (European Federation of Chemical Engineering) for the learned and professional societies of chemical engineering.

The idea of a more formal alliance between the bodies, aimed at giving chemistry in Europe a single voice. AllChemE is the acronym for this 'Alliance for Chemical Sciences and Technology in Europe'. AllChemE is not a new organization, but rather a platform to generate messages from the concertation of the five organizations. The primary objective of AllChemE is to promote chemical science and technology in Europe in order to maintain and strengthen the science base in recognition of the contributions which chemistry and chemical engineering make to European industrial competitiveness and to the quality of life of European citizens.

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