

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) members of the European Society for Separation Science (EuSSS)

Place: Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic

Date: 15.3.2014

Members present: Boguslaw Buszewski, Attila Felinger, Václav Kašička, Didier Thiebaut – substitute for Valerie Pichon

Member excused: Valerie Pichon

Program

1. B. Buszewski welcomed the present members and appreciated their participation in the meeting.
2. B. Buszewski presented in detail the history of the EuSSS:
 - First initiative by the group of chromatographers headed by H. Frank, motivation for establishment and establishment of the Society and the first Steering Committee (H. Frank, president; F. Dondi, vice-president; U. Brinkman, vice-president, M.C. Hennion, secretary; G. Bonn, treasurer) and declaration of Memorandum and Status in 2002.
 - Particular meetings of the SC and Plenary Assembly (= assembly of national representatives of EuSSS member countries) held at the occasion of international symposia, especially at ISC 2006 in Copenhagen, ISC 2008 in Münster, ISC 2010 in Valencia and ISC 2012 in Torun, and special SC meetings in Siofok and Berlin in 2009 and in Torun in 2010.
 - Election of new members of the SC: B. Buszewski and A. Felinger instead of U. Brinkman and G. Bonn in 2009, W. Lindner, C. Bevan and V. Pichon instead of H. Frank, F. Dondi and M.C. Hennion in 2010, and V. Kašička instead of W. Lindner in 2012.
 - Achievements: Auspices and support of several international meetings of the ISC, ISSS, NoSSS, HPLC, Balaton and Chiranal series; partnership with the Journal of Separation Science (see J. Sep. Sci. 2010, 33, 1361-1362); establishment and updating of the website (<http://www.eusss.org>); granting of “Science for Life” award to E. Stashenko at ISC 2006 in Copenhagen and granting of “Tswett-Nernst” award to G. Bonn and V. Davankov at ISC 2010 in Valencia and to P. Sandra at ISC 2012 in Torun.
 - Problems encountered: Different status of national societies (groups) for separation sciences, irregular and uneven payments of membership fee by the national groups; resignation of two members (W. Lindner and C. Bevan) of the SC in 2012; registration of the Society in Germany while absence of German representative in the SC; missing minutes from the Plenary Assembly in 2012 in Torun; missing Plenary Assembly in 2013, etc.
3. A. Felinger reported about the financial state of the EuSSS: In the last years, the income was irregular; some national groups paid their membership fee whereas some did not. The most important expense was a payment of 2500 EUR for the design and preparation of 20 statuettes for the Tswett–Nernst Award. Other expenses were rather low – payment for establishment and maintenance of EuSSS website in Hungary. Current balance of the account is 2630 EUR.
4. In the general discussion concerning the current state and perspective of the EuSSS it was stated that the current state is unsatisfactory and a reform of EuSSS is necessary. A. Felinger was asked to prepare the first draft of a new Constitution, taking into account the following issues:
 - EuSSS will be a free association of national societies (groups) of European countries for separation science with no membership fee.
 - EuSSS will be headed by SC, elected by Plenary Assembly. The SC members will consist of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and 1-2 members without special function.

- EuSSS will cooperate with Central European Group for Separation Sciences (CEGSS), Nordic Society for Separation Sciences (NoSSS), International (originally Californian) Separation Science Society (CASSS) and with organizers of the series of ISSS, NoSSS and ISC Symposia, taking auspices on these and some other symposia (providing its logo, making propagation on EuSSS website, financing some awards) and trying to coordinate organization of the meetings on separation methods with the aim to prevent their taking place in close dates and destinations.
 - The relation between EuSSS and ISC meetings series will be clarified after a new permanent Scientific Committee (PSC) of ISC series will be elected at ISC 2014 in Salzburg.
 - The first draft of the EuSSS Constitution will be modified and/or supplemented by all SC members and when agreed within the SC, it will be sent for discussion and potential modification and supplementary to the current and potential new representatives of separation sciences societies (groups) of all European countries. They should express if they wish to remain or become the members of EuSSS under the conditions of a new constitution and should nominate their representatives in the Plenary Assembly and candidates for free positions in the SC. Final version of the constitution will be approved by the Plenary Assembly at ISC 2014 in Salzburg.
5. It was agreed that the Tswett-Nernst award will be granted each two years at ISC meetings to two outstanding scientists in the area of separation sciences. Candidates for the award will be nominated by national representatives, selection of two awarded scientists will be done by the members of the SC. Prof. F. Švec and Prof. W. Lindner were nominated to be granted with Tswett-Nernst award at the closing ceremony of ISC 2014 in Salzburg.
 6. It was agreed that the special EuSSS Prize (500 EUR) will be granted at ISC meetings to the presenting author of the best oral contribution in the Young Scientist Session.
 7. The agenda for the next Plenary Assembly, which will be held at ISC 2014 in Salzburg, has to be prepared well and in time. B. Buszewski will ask the Organizers of ISC 2014 to reserve a room for 25 people for 2-3 hours for negotiation of Plenary Assembly during the lunch time and/or the poster session on 16.9. or 17.9.2014. V. Kašička will inform all national representatives about the place, date, time and program of the Plenary Assembly.
 8. Election of new members of SC committee will be performed during Plenary Assembly at ISC 2014 in Salzburg.

Summarized by V. Kašička