

Memorandum

In the past decade, the political and economic integration of the European Countries has become reality. Advances in science and technology play an important role, and scientific innovations represent the mainstay of the wealth of Europe.

For many scientific disciplines, national societies exist. In order to parallel the European integration process, the establishment of EU umbrella organisations is now necessary. We feel that the foundation of umbrella organisations is needed for the various science divisions, specifically of Separation Science which - with chromatography, electrophoresis, and mass spectrometry as main constituents - plays a fundamental role in designing analytical tools for all branches of chemistry and in creating interfaces to other science areas as diverse as biology, medicine, toxicology, and the pharmaceutical, food, agricultural and environmental sciences. In fact, Separation Science with its tremendous potential of data acquisition, data handling and correlation to ancillary data, is most often used to decode the molecular complexity of natural or man-made systems. By utilising this potential, the human mind can generate validated data bases for e.g. bio-informatics, for industrial and legal purposes. In order to master the tremendous technical variability - and potential - of Separation Science and to recognise and understand mechanistic and quantitative relationships, scientific excellency is a prerequisite.

Goals

EuSSS is meant to be an instrument to give Separation Science better visibility and a sharper profile in the public arena.

The goals to be achieved are:

- * To establish an umbrella for the national societies on Separation Science or chromatography, in order to consolidate and unify the intellectual potential of scientists from different countries and to give them a clear voice within the international community, also in respect to the science-policy in Europe, both on the national and international level.

- * To help the scientific community to have a voice in identifying needs of society and in setting priorities of research funding.

- * To promote the formation of international networks for the efficient spreading of technical knowledge, for setting up scientific programmes, and for fostering academic/industrial co-operations.

- * To harmonise national educational programmes and ensure proper conditions for academic representation of Separation Science.

Actions

- * Establish a board of representatives of the national (and, if appropriate, regional) societies to discuss, organise and publicise workshops, symposia and conferences in Europe.

- * Constitute circles and groups of experts who actively identify, promote, and suggest the scope and priorities of research funding in the European Union.

- * Establish information schemes for broader recognition of the importance of separation science in the industrial, commercial, medical and public arena.

- * Raise funds for the conception and continuous upgrading of academic training programmes adjusted to the demands and necessities in adjoining areas of the practical applications of separations science.

Separation scientists, as responsible citizens, must become more involved in the political-scientific decision making, in order to maintain the innovation-driven atmosphere in our countries. Europe as a whole will thrive best when the human capital, i.e. the scientific innovative potential, is utilised to its best advantage. This should be the general mission of a European Society for Separation Science. Its goals and actions must continuously be adjusted and redefined as scientific paradigms develop and change. In addition, EuSSS may serve as the nucleus for similar crystallisation processes in other scientific disciplines.