

Minutes of the First Statutory Assembly of the European Society for Separation Science,
on the occasion of the 26th International Symposium on Chromatography, Copenhagen,
24 August 2006, 17h30

Participants : Klaus Bischoff (proxy of C. Huber) and Hartmut Frank (Germany), Francesco Dondi (Italy), Steen Honoré Hansen (Denmark), Chris Bevan, John Lough, and Derek Stevenson (UK), Marie-Claire Hennion (France), Boguslaw Buszewski (Poland), Pavel Jandera (proxy of V. Kasicka) (Czech Republic), Nikola Segudovic (Croatia), Wolfgang Lindner (Austria), José Carlos Diez-Masa (Spain).

Absent were Modest Gertsyuk (Ukraine), Tyge Greibrokk (Norway), Sz. Nyiredy, excused (Hungary), Lucija Zupancic-Kralj, excused (Slovenia).

Agenda

1. Annual report of the Steering Committee
2. Discharge to the Members of the Steering Committee (SC)
3. Amendment to the status to gain tax exemption
4. Election of the new Steering Committee Members
5. Finances, Membership Fees
6. Miscellaneous, additions

The meeting was opened by Hartmut Frank, welcoming the participants to the first plenary assembly of the EuSSS which is now legally fully established, with the participation of the 14 following member countries (and their representatives): Austria (Wolfgang Lindner), Croatia (Nicola Segudovic), Czech Republic (Vaclav Kasicka), Denmark (Steen Honoré-Hansen), France (Marie Claire Hennion), Germany (Christian Huber), Hungary (Sz. Nyiredy), Italy (Francesco Dondi), Norway (Tyge Greibrokk), Poland (Boguslaw Buszewski), Slovenia (Lucija Zupancic-Kralj), Spain (Jose Carlos Diez-Masa), Ukraine (Modest Gertsyuk), United Kingdom (Christopher Bevan). The attainment of the quorum (10 out of 14 = 70 %) was stated.

1. HF first went into the history of the EuSSS and described the work that has been done during the foundation period. In 2002, a temporary Steering Committee (SC) was formed by H. Frank (president), F. Dondi (vice president), G. Bonn, (treasurer) and U. Brinkman (secretary); the latter retired in 2004, succeeded by M-C Hennion. The task of the SC was to gather the various European National Societies, to conceive the statutes, and to legally register the Society. Collection of the signatures according to the legal requirements took half a year and the full establishment of the EuSSS as a registered society was reached on 04 Jan. 2006. EuSSS has now 14 official members; others are expressing their intent to participate (Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Netherlands). In 2005, the first commercial company (Thermo-Electron) joined EuSSS. Discussions with other commercial members are ongoing.
During these past two years, according to the EuSSS objects (see Statutes), the Society has supported young scientists by awards (2 in the ISC meeting in Paris, Oct 2004, 1 at the 11th International Symposium on Separation Sciences, Sept. 2005, Pardubice, Czech Republic, and 2 at the ISC meeting, Copenhagen, August 2006.
An new award – Science for Life - has been founded which is sponsored by Thermo Electron every two years (2006, 2008, 2010) and will be awarded on the occasion of an International Symposium on Separation Science, if possible the International Symposium of Chromatography. It consists of a certificate and the payment of 2000 Euros. The first award was presented during 26th ISC on 23 Aug 06 to Elena Stashenko (Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia) who gave an impressive

lecture “The many roles of separation sciences in developing countries: the Colombian case”.

2. The plenary assembly recognised the importance of the work done by the founding SC members and gave discharge to the founding SC until the new SC is elected. There was a general consensus for pushing EuSSS ahead.
3. The statutes were closely examined by each member and discussed in order to gain tax exemption. Some modifications were made and were accepted by unanimous vote of the 10 members present. The amended statutes are on the web in their final form.
4. The election mode of the new SC was extensively discussed and there was general consensus to proceed as follows:
 - The voting will be done by e-mail.
 - The vote will be cast by the 14 official representatives of the National Societies (see the list on the EuSSS home page).
 - Each national society can identify two candidates for election in the SC. In case of the election of another person than the official representative a country as a member of the SC, the national society still will have only one vote.
 - EuSSS will contact each society through the official representatives.
 - The new SC starting on 01 Jan 2007 will be constituted of 5 members (president, 2 vice-presidents, treasurer and secretary). In order to ensure continuity in the SC, according to the statutes, half of the SC will be replaced at each election term in biannual sequence. Consequently, two members of the first SC (President, one Vice-president) will act for 2 years (2007/2008), 3 for 4 years (2007/2010).
 - The national society should give the names of candidates for the SC to the secretary (marie-claire.hennion@espci.fr) before 20 October 2006; election shall proceed and vote must be cast on 15 Dec 2006, in order to have a new SC established on 1st January 2007.

It is pointed out that being part of the SC requires work and the attendance of some meetings. Other national societies/countries have to be approached and several activities must be organised in the near future.

5. Members fees: the amount of annual membership is left to the discretion of each member country with a minimum of 100 €, but a contribution of 2 € per member of each national group is desirable as the financial operating basis of EuSSS. Members who have not paid yet are kindly asked to do so.

The meeting was closed at 19h.

Marie-Claire Hennion, secretary