

**Protocol of the General Assembly of the European Colloid and Interface  
Society  
Tuesday, 7 September 2010  
held at the 24<sup>th</sup> ECIS Conference in Prague**

1. **Opening:** Andrew Howe (AH), the President of ECIS, acts as the chairmen and opens the meeting at 17:35. He sincerely thanks Karel Procházka and his team for a fantastic organization and wonderful meeting. He also acknowledges the difficult period due to the financial crisis during which he had to perform his task.
2. **Minutes:** The General Assembly (GA) accepts the minutes of the last GA unanimously.
3. **Conferences:**
  - a. ECIS 2010 Prague

Karel Procházka provides a detailed account of the organization, the budget as well as the difficulties of coping with economic developments. The attendance has been far beyond expectations, with a total of 624 participants (242 students, 323 regular paying participants).
  - b. Berlin 2011: 4 – 9 September

AH first points out the special context of next years meeting, as the organizers plan a joint meeting with the German Colloid Society (GCS).  
On behalf of the organizers of 2011, Reinhard Miller (RM) provides a short description of the conference organization and site. RM explains that the GCS traditionally is held at the same time. In order to avoid competition the organizers of Berlin 2011 thus propose to have a joint meeting, and he briefly explains the planned structure (see Annex 1 with the minutes of a joint ECIS board-organizer meeting). With respect to the registration fees and local costs for participants, Berlin as a relatively cheap city, where accommodation can be found for all possible budgets, should allow for overall costs similar to those of this year's conference in Prague.  
Peter Schurtenberger (PS) also points out the unfortunate fact that 2011 the Liquid Matter conference will be held at exactly the same time, and that it is thus important to limit any further major competition with similar scientific meetings.  
A discussion starts, where for example the number of parallel sessions is addressed. RM explains that they would like to maintain the standard structure of ECIS meetings, with a small number of plenary and prize lecture, and two parallel scientific sessions. Adrian

Rennie suggests that one should seriously consider increasing the number of parallel sessions if the number of participants continues to increase as it has during the last years. AH asks the GA for a consultative vote, and 24 members are for 2 parallel sessions, while 27 members vote for 3 and more sessions. Concerns are also raised with respect to the sharing of financial risks (and profits) between the two societies. Peter Schurtenberger (PS) explains that both ECIS and GCS do not underwrite the meetings, and that the financial risk and profit is entirely on the side of the local organizers.

c. Presentation Proposal from Sweden for 2012:

AH shortly explains the situation. Last year there were two groups from Bulgaria and Sweden that indicated an interest to organize the ECIS conference in 2012. Due to health problems of one of the main organizers from Bulgaria, their proposal has been communicated only very recently, and thus the board had encouraged the Swedish organizers to advance before the GA. In a short organizational meeting between the board and representatives from the Swedish and Bulgarian groups this has been discussed, and the Bulgarian team subsequently has withdrawn its proposal for 2012 and instead intends to present a proposal for 2013.

Thomas Arnebrant from Malmö University and Tommy Nylander from Lund University present their proposal for holding the Conference in 2012 at Malmö. The two universities will organize it jointly, and the two representatives shortly present the city, the conference site and its state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure. They also document the various accommodation possibilities for all possible budgets that include a camping ground with 4 person cabins that will be ideal for students. AH asks that given the costs of Malmö when compared to Prague, it is essential to make the student fees even lower than in Prague. Tommy Nylander agrees, and the proposal for the meeting 2012 in Malmö is unanimously accepted by the GA.

d. Future Conferences:

2013: Christian Vassilieff briefly presents the proposal to hold the meeting 2013 in Sofia. He shortly describes the excellent facilities, he confirms that the living costs in Sofia are still low, and points out the experience of the organizers with such meetings, demonstrated with the successful IACIS meeting that had been held in Sofia in 1997.

e. 2014 and beyond:

Dganit Danino expresses the interest of the soft matter community at Technion (Haifa) to organize an ECIS meeting in Israel. She explains that they have been closely attached to ECIS and actively participated at the annual meetings for a long time. H. Möhwald

expresses concerns about the availability of cheap flights to Israel, as this is essential to guarantee that students can participate to the meetings. D. Danino acknowledges that indeed flight costs currently are of the order of USD 500.

AH encourages other groups to come forward and organize future meetings.

V. Starov expresses an interest from the Scottish community to organize a future conference in Edinburgh. A. Rennie inquires about difficulties connected with the fact that a famous international festival is happening during the period where ECIS meetings are held. V. Starov is of the opinion that this would not interfere with the ECIS meeting, Edinburgh being sufficiently large to offer enough accommodation for both events.

f. 2011 Student Conference:

M. Andersson presents the next student conference to take place on 14 – 17 June 2011 in Falkenberg, Sweden; organized by the Soft Matter Graduate School of Chalmers University of Technology.

- 4. Elections:** AH explains that PS after many years of service to the society has decided to resign as General Secretary of ECIS. There is thus the need to replace him. Given the considerable growth of the society in recent years and the need to increase networking with other national and international societies, the board has decided to create two new positions, a secretary and a treasurer, and asks for nominations.

M. Schönhoff proposes Hans-Jürgen Butt (HJB) as the new treasurer. No other candidate steps up, and the GA elects HJB unanimously.

AH asks for nominations for the position of a secretary. M. Borkovec proposes Peter Kralchevsky (PK) as secretary of ECIS, and bases his nomination on the perfect work that PK has done as chairman of the COST action D43. No other candidate steps up, and the GA elects PK unanimously.

AH also nominates PS as Auditor for the ECIS accounts, which is unanimously accepted

- 5. ECIS balance 2010:** PS presents the ECIS financial report, which is unanimously accepted (Annex 2). PS notes that since 2001, the balance of the ECIS budget has increased from 9'000 Euro to approximately 50000 Euros in 2010, largely as a result of the collection of Membership fees via conference registration.

- 6. Overbeek Foundation Information:** Björn Lindman shortly summarizes the history of the Overbeek Medal as the lifetime award of ECIS and the Foundation. He briefly presents the effort made by him and H. Möhwald to acquire additional funds and points and acknowledges new donations by several companies (Procter & Gamble, BASF, Unilever, Firmenich). He regrets that Martien Cohen Stuart, who chairs the board of the Foundation, can unfortunately not participate and report on the overall state-of-affairs and further activities made by others.

AH thanks all people involved, in particular B. Lindman and H. Möhwald, for their continuing effort.

7. **ECIS prize nominations:** AH reminds the members of the importance of receiving well documented nominations for the two ECIS prizes. The new secretary will send out a call for nominations in due time.
8. **AOB:**
  - a AH reminds the members of the new internet address of ECIS ([www.ecis-web.eu](http://www.ecis-web.eu)) and thanks the two new webmasters Pierandrea Lo Nostro and Eduardo Marques for their work and effort.
  - b B. Lindman thanks PS for all the work he has done for the society, first as a President and then as General Secretary, and suggests that he should become a Honorary Member of ECIS. The GA agrees unanimously. PS accepts the honour.
  - c RM informs the GA that Elsevier has just confirmed that they are again willing to finance the ECIS poster prizes. Concerns are raised that this poses problems as the first session is already over. AH suggests that RM leads a small team to resolve the issue immediately after the GA.
9. AH thanks again the Local Organizers and closes the meeting at 18:50.

## Annex 1: Meeting of ECIS Council (EC)<sup>1</sup> with German Colloid Society Officers (GCSO) and Organizers (LO) of the 25<sup>th</sup> ECIS Meeting in Berlin

Present: Andrew Howe (AH, EC), Maria Graça Miguel (MM, EC), Reinhard Miller (RM, EB and LO), Hans-Jürgen Butt (HJB, GCSO), Monika Schönhoff (MS, GCSO), Michael Gradzielski (MG, GCSO), Peter Schurtenberger (PS, EC).

AH opens the meeting and explains that with the expressed intention of the organizers of Berlin 2011 to hold a joint meeting between ECIS and the German Colloid Society (GCS) there is a need to now establish general rules for joint meetings. The meeting in Berlin will then serve as role model for future joint meetings between ECIS and national societies. He first asks PS to briefly summarize the history and philosophy of the ECIS meetings

PS particularly emphasizes the importance of student participations, ensured via strongly reduced student registration fees and a preference given to oral presentations by students and young postdocs, the limitation to two parallel sessions and a small number of plenary lectures only (preferably one per day), two prize lectures, where the award winners are also treated as plenary speakers, a certain national balance among speakers, avoidance of repetitive appearance of speakers and members of the Scientific Committee, and a Scientific Committee that refrains from giving oral presentations. PS also points out that ECIS does not underwrite their meetings, and that the society receives a licensing fee of Euro 25 per regular participant and Euro 5 per student.

After a short discussion everyone agrees that such joint meetings could indeed be beneficial for both parties and enhance collaborations between ECIS and the different national societies, and introduce new groups to the ECIS community. Everyone agrees that the best way to integrate a national meeting in the ECIS program would be to allow for special sessions (as one of the two parallel sessions), following the example of the COST D43 sessions that have been incorporated into the ECIS meetings these last few years. This would also allow the organizers of the national meeting to relax the overall national balance of speakers and achieve a balanced representation of the national community that is often crucial for national meetings. There should also be a clear identity in the public appearance, with a common conference web site (with links from the respective ECIS and national societies web sites) and common flyers only.

The GCS representatives also describe some specific points of their meetings, and indicate that they would prefer to hold the GCS sessions starting Monday noon, and ending Tuesday noon. There is a need for a GCS assembly, which should be held on Monday evening, in parallel with the COST D43 assembly. Moreover, the national organizers would like to highlight the regular award lectures, and preference would be given to the most important prize, the Wolfgang-Ostwald-Prize, treated on a similar footing as the Rhodia Prize and Overbeek medal, with a plenary slot reserved for the award lecture. The other prizes that are possibly handed out at the meeting (the Richard-

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<sup>1</sup> ECIS Council includes ECIS Board and ECIS General Secretariat.

Zsigmondy-Scholarship and the Raphael-Eduard-Liesegang Prize) could be combined with a keynote lecture in the GCS sessions.

Further details of the meetings are discussed, such as the ECIS General Assembly, which should be scheduled for Tuesday evening, the importance of a free afternoon (traditionally Wednesday) for joint social activities, and the importance of the poster sessions that should be given enough space and time (preferably every session over at least 2 days, with 2 sessions only).

Finally, it is agreed upon that a single fee should be introduced, but an option of a reduced fee for those participants who would like to participate at the national meeting only could also be offered, which would however not allow those participants to profit from any other services offered during the ECIS conference, and participation at the rest of the ECIS scientific program would not be allowed. Here, the joint meetings would again use the model introduced with the COST D43 meetings hosted by the ECIS meetings.

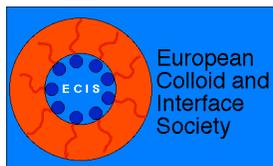
Prague, September 7, 2010

Peter Schurtenberger

Note added by AH following ECIS General Assembly

At the GA, there was a brief discussion concerning the maximum number of parallel sessions appropriate to a well-attended ECIS Conference. The GA view, expressed by a show of hands, was closely balanced between 2 sessions (24 votes) or 3 sessions (27 votes).

Following the GA, and in consideration of the “loss” to ECIS of a day-length of oral presentations to the GCS in addition to that lost to the COST 43 presentations and the expected high level of attendance, AH suggested that RM should explore the possibility of three parallel oral sessions on Monday to Thursday of the Berlin 2011 Conference.



# ECIS European Colloid and Interface Society

Report of the treasurer, Peter Schurtenberger

## ECIS account balance 1.9.2009 – 31.8.2010

Balance 31.8.2009	€ 43'595.41
Membership fees ECIS directly paid	€ 72.00
Reimbursement from Rhodia	€ 2'997.00
Reimbursement, Turkey 2009 Conference	€ 4'657.00
Post Office interest 2009	€ 172.29
Travel expenses, G.J. Tiddy, (Conf. Turkey)	€ -733.44
Rhodia Prize 2008, G.J. Tiddy (incl. charges)	€ -3'001.32
Rhodia Prize 2009, G.S. Attard	€ -3'000.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>€ 44'758.94</b>
Expected fees ECIS 2010 Prague, Czechoslovakia	
Regular participants (323 x € 25)	€ 8075.00
Students (242 x € 5)	€ 1210.00
Rhodia Prize 2010	€ -3'000.00
Transfer Rhodia	€ 3'000.00
Expected transfer to IACIS	€ -2'183.54
<b>Expected final balance</b>	<b>€ 51'860.40</b>

Marly, 03.09.2010

Peter Schurtenberger  
General Secretary of ECIS