

**Protocol of the General Extraordinary Assembly  
of the European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS)  
14:00 – 15:30 CET, Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
ONLINE RECORDED MEETING  
Webinar ID: 951 6811 7278**

Presiding: Prof. Dganit Danino  
Protocol: Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro

Due to the Covid-19 pandemics the assembly is held online as a webinar, through the Zoom platform. The invitation and the agenda were circulated to the ECIS members by email by Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro, on behalf of the President, Prof. Dganit Danino, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 all members were invited to register online to take part in the assembly, through the following link:

[https://technion.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ggQvjcL9Q82azfY9WpbnsA](https://technion.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ggQvjcL9Q82azfY9WpbnsA).

54 ECIS Members participated, as certified by the webinar list.

At 15:00 Israel time, 14:00 Central European Time, the President acts as chairperson and opens the assembly with the following Agenda:

1. Opening and Communications
2. Update on ECIS board and website
3. Update on ECIS statutes
4. Update on ECIS meetings' structure and contract with meeting organizers
5. Awards (the ECIS-Lyklema Prize)
6. Upcoming Financial Report (including update on changes in the bank accounts)
7. ECIS Conferences
  - a. 34<sup>th</sup> ECIS Conference. Athens (5–10 September 2021): Short description by Prof. Aris Xenakis, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.
  - b. 35<sup>th</sup> ECIS Conference. Crete (September 2022): Short description by Prof. George Petekidis, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.
  - c. 18<sup>th</sup> European Student Colloid Conference, Szeged, Hungary (June 2021): Short description by Prof. Tamas Szabo, on behalf of the Organizing Committee.
8. ECIS Bulletin
9. Lifetime Memberships
10. ECIS on the web
11. Special 2023 ECIS Student conference
12. AOB
13. Close

**MINUTES**

1. Opening and Communications: The President informs the participants that Prof. Peter Kralchevsky, Secretary of ECIS, passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The President expresses the condolences of the entire Society, briefly recalls the scientific activity of Kralchevsky and his fundamental service as Secretary of the Society since 2010.

2. Update on ECIS board and website: The President recalls that, due to the premature passing away of Peter Kralchevsky, the assembly has to elect a new Secretary according to the current Statutes of the Society. The President also states that the Secretary has to be a

person of trust of the Board and of the Society. For this reason, the President nominates Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro, the current Webmaster of ECIS, for the position of Secretary, and opens the secret ballot. The attendees vote electronically and the result is:

votes in favour: 50, 92%

votes against: 1, 2%

Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro is therefore elected Secretary of ECIS according to the Statutes for the period 2021-2027. He accepts the election, thanks the Board and the members, and resigns from the office of Webmaster.

This implies that the office of Webmaster is vacant. The President also states that the Webmaster has to be a person of trust of the Board and of the Society. For this reason the President nominates Prof. Dominik Horinek for the position of Webmaster, and opens the secret ballot. The attendees vote electronically and the result is:

votes in favour: 51, 94%

votes against: 0.

Prof. Dominik Horinek is therefore elected Webmaster of ECIS for the period 2021-2027. He accepts the election and thanks the Board and the members.

The President and the Webmaster propose to renovate the ECIS website.

It is decided that, as past Webmaster, Prof. Lo Nostro will update the existing website and will organize the transfer of the domain from the University of Florence (where it has been hosted since 2010), to the University of Regensburg or to a new provider while keeping the same domain name.

The assembly approves unanimously.

3. Update on ECIS statutes. The President summarizes the reasons why it is necessary to update and partly modify the Statutes of the Society, which is registered as a not-for-profit organization in Mainz, Germany. The Board will introduce an updated document to be approved during the next ordinary assembly, taking place during the works of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Athens, in September 2021. Furthermore, the official registration of the Society will be moved to Dresden, Germany.

4. Update on ECIS meetings structure and contract with meeting organizers. The President introduces this issue recalling that it is necessary to redefine and align the structure of the annual meetings and to write down a new template for the contract to be signed by the meeting organizers each year.

The following two images illustrate the proposed template for the contract and for the registration fees, respectively.



**European Colloid and  
Interface Society e.V.**

The European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS) is regularly holding and supporting a number of activities for its members, the major being its annual conference, held generally at the first full week of September. This contract is between ECIS e.V. and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the organizer of ECIS conference, ~~X-XX~~ September, 202X.

#### **Detailed description of registration fee options on the conference website**

- ECIS member (50 € reduction in registration fee, clearly stated that this fee includes membership fee and can be used to become a new member).
- Regular participant (non-member).
- Student (requires confirmation from PhD supervisor), and pensioners.
- Online presenting member and Online participants

#### **Licensing Fee**

- Fee paid by the organizer to ECIS per every participant in the conference and satellite meetings: regular participants (members and non-members) 25 €, students and pensioners 5 €.
- ECIS e.V. and \_\_\_\_\_ agree, that the respective payments, stipulated in this contract, are not liable to the value-added tax (=VAT - in Germany: Umsatzsteuer). In case the fiscal authorities demand the VAT/Umsatzsteuer on this payments, ECIS e.V. and \_\_\_\_\_ agree, that \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to pay this tax in addition to the agreed payments.

#### **Solvay and Overbeek medal**

- Open plenary lecture slots will be available to Solvay and Overbeek medal recipients, and they will be treated on equal footing with other plenary speakers by the local organizers (registration fee waiver, travel and local cost support).
- There will be registration fee waiver for one representative from each prize sponsor (2 overall).

#### **Honorary ECIS members and retired former presidents**

- There will be registration fee waiver for honorary ECIS members, and ECIS does not require 25€ fee for them. These are currently: B. Lindman, H. Hoffmann, M. Corti, P. Bothorel, P. Schurtenberger, B. Vincent.
- There will be registration fee waiver for retired former ECIS presidents. The respective fees are refunded to the organizer by ECIS after the conference. These are currently: O. Glatter, M. da Graça Miguel, M. Almgren, D. Langevin, P. Stenius, H. Lekkerkerker, C. Solans, J. Rosenholm, M. Cohen Stuart, A. Howe, R. Miller.

**Template for registration page on conference home page:  
(y includes the ECIS Licensing Fee)**

Price	Early-bird registration (June 10)	Late registration (June 11 through July 15)	On site registration (after July 15)
ECIS member	$x = y \text{ €} - 10\%$	$y \text{ €}$	$z = y \text{ €} + 5\%$
Non-ECIS participant	$x + 50 \text{ €}$	$y + 50 \text{ €}$	$z + 50 \text{ €}$
Accompanying person	-	-	-
PhD student, pensioner	Up to 60% $x \text{ €}$	Up to 60% $y \text{ €}$	Up to 60% $z \text{ €}$

Online Participation:

Price	Early-bird registration (June 10)	Late registration (June 11 through July 15)	On site registration (after July 15)
ECIS member Presenting	$X = Y \text{ €} - 10\%$	$Y \text{ €}$	$Z = Y \text{ €} + 5\%$
ECIS member Participant, non-presenter	$X + 50 \text{ €}$	$Y + 50 \text{ €}$	$Z + 50 \text{ €}$
Non-ECIS Participant, non-presenter	-	-	-
PhD student pensioner	Up to 60% $X \text{ €}$	Up to 60% $Y \text{ €}$	Up to 60% $Z \text{ €}$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only ECIS members can present online</li> <li>• Online participation fee (X) is not to exceed 50% of onsite participation (x)</li> </ul>			

1. ECIS will not be responsible for any action or the result of action made by the local organizing committee, including budget and health-related actions.
2. Payments transferred to the organizing committee for the onsite conference will be returned to the members and participants in case of cancelation or delay of the conference, and to individuals that cannot attend the onsite event due to health regulations.
3. ECIS highly recommends the local organizing committee to have insurance to protect it and its members from damages or losses associated with the organization of the conference, including those that may result from delay or cancelation.

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(Organizer) (President of ECIS) (Treasurer of ECIS)

The President asks the attendees to vote on the documents. The assembly approves unanimously.

5. Awards (the ECIS-Lyklema Prize). The President recalls the awards and prizes currently given during the annual meetings of the ECIS, which acknowledge the research activity in the field of Colloid and Interface Science at different levels: Overbeek medal, ECIS-Solvay prize, Enzo Ferroni award, Langmuir prize, MDPI-Polymers prize, Substantia award, Exerowa-Platikanov award and Elsevier poster prizes. Each item is explained in detail in the ECIS website. The President describes the new prize, named "ECIS-Lyklema prize" to honor the scientific activity of Hans Lyklema, who passed away in 2017.

The ECIS – Lyklema Prize is granted to an ECIS scientist with proven scientific excellence who additionally devoted long-time, sustained and exceptional efforts to ECIS organizational activities and the colloid and interface community development. The prize will be awarded every 4-5 years at the decision of the ECIS Board (President, Past President and President Elect). The nominations are judged by a committee chaired by the ECIS President, which includes also the ECIS Past President and President-Elect, the former prize awardees, and up to 2 additional ECIS honorary members. This prize is supported by ECIS, at the amount of 3.000,00 €. It will be combined with a special plenary lecture at the current ECIS Conference and a lifetime ECIS membership.

The prize will be presented by ECIS President at a session of the annual ECIS Conference.

The first Lyklema prize was awarded to Peter Kralchevsky during the online ECIS2020 meeting, in recognition of his fundamental activities and services to the Society.

The President asks the attendees to vote on the creation of the new prize. The assembly approves unanimously.

6. Financial Report (including update on changes in the bank accounts). The President invites the Treasurer, Prof. Andreas Fery, to give an update on the financial situation of the Society. The Treasurer illustrates the most recent financial report. The budget for the period between 31 August 2020 and 15 March 2021 is:

Girokonto (checking account) from 10.979,31 € to 55.504,73 €

Zuwachssparen (savings account) from 44.473,99 € to 0,00 €.

This variation is due to the much reduced interest rate of the savings account, because of which it was decided to merge the two accounts into the checking account and close the savings account.

The next picture illustrates the checking account situation to date:

Beleg-No.	Datum		In (€)	Out (€)
	<b>21.08.2019</b>	<b>Saldo</b>	<b>10.979,21 €</b>	
1	01.09.2020	Bank fee		5,04 €
2	10.09.2020	ECIS Membership fee	25,00 €	
3	11.09.2020	ECIS Membership fee	25,00 €	
4	01.10.2020	Bank fee		5,18 €
5	21.10.2020	Solvay (Prize 2020)	3.000,00 €	
6	28.10.2020	Transfer savings account (Zuwachssparen)	44.473,99 €	
7	01.11.2020	Bank fee		7,63 €
8	06.11.2020	Solvay Prize		3.000,00 €
9	01.12.2020	Bank fee		5,04 €
10	09.12.2020	ECIS Membership fee	25,00 €	
11	01.01.2021	Bank fee		5,04 €
12	30.01.2021	Bank fee		7,35 €
13	01.02.2021	ECIS Membership fee student	5,00 €	
14	05.02.2021	ECIS Membership fee	25,00 €	
15	27.02.2021	Bank fee		5,18 €
16	15.03.2021	Bundesanzeiger Verlag GmbH/ Transparenzregister		13,01 €
	<b>15.03.2021</b>	<b>Saldo</b>	<b>55.504,73 €</b>	

The President asks the attendees to vote on the proposed report. The assembly approves (27 voted yes and one abstention) and agrees on the correctness of the financial report.

## 7. ECIS Conferences.

a. The 35<sup>th</sup> ECIS Conference will be held in Athens, 5-10 September 2021. Prof. Aristotelis Xenakis, from the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens presents details on the organization. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECIS conference in Athens was shifted by one year. This was agreed with the Organizing Committee and the International Scientific Committee (ISC). The conference venue, Zappeion Mansion (in the heart of Athens), remains the same as already planned for 2020.

Due to the persistent pandemic situation, the Conference will be carried out in a hybrid mode, i.e., both with physical presence and online. If the Greek Government will limit access to the country due to the pandemic, it will be necessary to reconsider the planning and shift the meeting to a full online conference. Other organizational details are available through the website.

b. 36<sup>th</sup> ECIS, Chania, Crete, Greece, 4–9 September 2022. Prof. George Petekidis from the University of Crete presents details on the organization. The Organizing Committee and

the International Scientific Committee are set. The conference venue will be the Minoan Palace Congress venue hotel, as described in the previous General Assembly. Several different options of accommodation will be provided.

A short course “Advanced characterization and modelling techniques for colloids” will take place in Heraklion, Crete. Other details are provided through the conference website. The registration fee will be the same as in Athens this year.

c. 18<sup>th</sup> European Student Colloid Conference (ESC-2021), Szeged, 20-24 June 2021.

Prof. Tamas Szabo (University of Szeged, Hungary) reports on the organization of ESC-2021. Due to the pandemics, the Student conference has been shifted to the last week of June 2022. At the moment, five tutors confirmed their availability to give lectures during the conference. More details will be provided in the conference website.

8. ECIS Bulletin. The President invites the President-Elect, Prof. Epameinondas Leontidis, to give an overview on the idea of producing an ECIS Bulletin. The President-Elect proposes to make a Bulletin of the Society on a semester basis, to have a more regular communication among the ECIS members through an electronic newsletter.

The newsletter should contain relevant information for the members, like COST actions, book reviews and article dissemination. It will be organized and carried out by the President-Elect and the Webmaster of ECIS. Suggestions will be very welcome.

9. Lifetime Memberships. The President gives the floor to Prof. Thomas Zemb concerning this new proposal. Zemb observes that in his opinion it is in the interest of ECIS to have a list of 30-40 lifetime members that people can expect to meet at ECIS meetings, similar to the European Council. The election of a lifetime member could be proposed by any ECIS member at the general assembly, will be voted at the general assembly, and endorsed by the President. The list will appear on the ECIS website. Past presidents become lifetime members automatically, when they retire. They are exempt of registration fee in ECIS meetings provided they stay 3 days or more, and chair one session (this regulation was in fact voted 10 years ago).

The President opens the discussion. Some participants argue about the financial sustainability if the lifetime members' registration fees are going to be waived every year.

The President proposes to discuss this issue during the next general assembly in Athens, the assembly agrees unanimously.

10. ECIS on the web: bringing another useful tool to our members. The President gives the floor to Prof. Thomas Zemb concerning this new proposal. Zemb proposes that as more activities become virtual, the Society may offer a members-only page in its official website with an indexed presentation of all abstract books (e.g., since 2010 or 2015); the authors can add the DOI as well as update with a discussion file to their abstracts. The President proposes to discuss this issue during the next general assembly in Athens, the assembly agrees unanimously.

11. Special 2023 ECIS Student conference. The President gives the floor to Prof. Thomas Zemb concerning this new proposal. Zemb proposes a special 2023 ECIS Student conference to be held in Marcoule, France, just before the 2023 ECIS, i.e., in September 6-8, 2023. A 3-day semi-virtual event, with six sessions of one half-day on physics, chemistry, biology, technology, medicine and pharmacy and more. Each session starts by the presentation of a state-of-the-art, open problem presented by people involved in industry, or having patents based on colloidal properties. There will be six such sessions in total.

These will be followed by "flipped teaching" by students giving 25 minute talks prepared under the supervision of the Professor. All pdf files of students' presentations will be kept on the ECIS website member zone. The President proposes to discuss this issue during the next general assembly in Athens, the assembly agrees unanimously.

12. AOB. None.

13. Close. The President thanks all the participants who attended the virtual general assembly and closes the meeting at 15.30 CET. The next general assembly will take place during the Athens meeting, scheduled from Sep 5 to Sep 10, 2021.

August 04, 2021.

Prof. Dganit Danino, President of ECIS

Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro, Secretary of ECIS