

the Executive Committee and the General Assembly agreed to appoint Dr. R. Battaglia, New Swiss Chemical Society, to serve initially for one year as President Elect with the effect from the end of the General Assembly and succeed Professor Niinisto as President in September 1999. (See below for a biographical sketch of Dr. Battaglia.)

Composition of the Executive Committee

The President informed the General Assembly that there were four vacancies for individuals to serve on the Executive Committee for three years from September 1998. He stressed that elected members of the Executive Committee serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of a member society. The General Assembly accepted the recommendation from the Executive Committee that Dr. R. Darms, Professor S. Gultekin, Professor V. Simanek, and Professor A. Zamojski be elected to the Executive Committee.

Membership of the Federation

The General Assembly received the circulated application and accepted the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the Lithuanian Chemical Society become a member of FECS.

Relations with Other Bodies

American Chemical Society

Dr. Walter, President of the American Chemical Society, gave a presentation on international links and the increasing interdependency of national chemical societies. He believed that the promotion of global co-operation was a vital role for chemical societies.

He outlined his proposal that there should be a 'C7' group of the major national chemical societies, including the GDCh, the RSC, and the Chemical Society of Japan, having special responsibilities since they were better equipped in terms of wealth and knowledge. He proposed that an agenda for such action be discussed in Berlin in August 1999.

The President questioned the need for another new organisation in the form of an 'exclusive club', bearing in mind the plans for increased IUPAC activity. Dr. Walter responded by explaining that he saw it not as another organisation but as an opportunity for a group with common interests to compare what they do and see what they could do jointly. He referred to the fact that IUPAC member organisations were often the national academy rather than the national chemical society.

The President referred to the existence of the International Council for Chemistry, and Dr. Hayes explained that it was a IUPAC/UNESCO collaborative activity promoting links with developing countries.

During discussion of recruitment, Dr. Walter reported that the ACS membership campaign had hitherto been confined to the United States. He acknowledged that extending it to countries in Europe could be perceived as competing with national societies and said he would welcome suggestions on how action could be taken without endangering existing good relationships. It was suggested that reduced fees for members of European societies could be an option.

The President thanked the President of the American Chemical Society for his presentation and participation in the General Assembly meeting.

General Assembly

Dr. Herve presented the invitation from the Association of Finnish Chemical Societies to hold the 1999 General Assembly meeting in Finland and this was unanimously accepted. She confirmed that the General Assembly would be held on 16–17 September 1999 in Helsinki.

Appointment of New President Elect of FECS

At its recent General Assembly, FECS appointed Dr. Reto Battaglia, of the New Swiss Chemical Society, as its President Elect. Reto Battaglia will serve one year as President Elect before succeeding Professor Lauri Niinisto as President of FECS after the 1999 General Assembly in Helsinki on 16–17 September 1999.

Reto Battaglia has been involved in the work of the Federation since 1981, having been a member of and, since 1995, Chairman, of the Division of Food Chemistry. He has been President of the Swiss Society of Food and Environmental Chemistry and has been active in the IUPAC Commission on Food Chemistry.

Following his doctoral studies at ETH Zurich, Reto Battaglia was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Manchester (UK) in organic synthetic chemistry. In 1973 he joined the Cantonal laboratory of Zurich, later becoming deputy head. Since 1989 he has been Director of Migros Laboratories, Zurich.

FECS Award for Service

FECS has decided to give its 1998 Award for Service to Dr. Johannes van Spronsen of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society, The Hague, The Netherlands.

The FECS Award, consisting of a medal and a scroll, was given to Dr. van Spronsen in recognition of his services to FECS and for his outstanding work as a historian of chemistry.

Dr. van Spronsen is the present Secretary and former Chairman of the Working Party on the History of Chemistry of the FECS. Dr. van Spronsen has edited