

## Highlights of the Executive Committee Meeting

**IUPAC's Executive Committee (EC) meets once a year to ensure the orderly discharge of the functions of the Union. In 2003, the EC Meeting was held 5–6 April in Bergen, Norway. The EC comprises the IUPAC officers, namely the president, vice president, past president, secretary general, treasurer, and three elected members, currently Oleg Nefedov, Hitoshi Ohtaki, and Ed Przybylowicz. IUPAC Executive Director John Jost acts as secretary of the EC.**

At the recent meeting, the EC examined a few important proposals in anticipation of the Council Meeting of this coming August in Ottawa. Some of the most significant actions are described below.

### Proposal to Reorganize the Governance of the Union

The EC examined and approved the report of the Governance Structure Committee (GSC), which makes two major proposals for changes in the governance of IUPAC:

1. creation of a new body tentatively called the Union Policy Committee, which would have one representative from each National Adhering Organization (NAO) and would provide input on policy issues to the new Executive Board
2. replacement of the Bureau and Executive Committee with a new body to be called the Executive Board, which would be composed of the five officers and four members elected by Council

The GSC report has been sent to the IUPAC NAOs for detailed study and comment. The proposals in the report will be voted on at the Council meeting in Ottawa.

### Proposal to Bill National Subscriptions in National Currencies

By a resolution passed by Council in 2001, a Working Party on National Subscriptions, chaired by Christoph Buxtorf, was appointed to investigate National Subscriptions. The Working Party has designed an ingenious method of calculating National Subscriptions. It is still based on chemical turnover; however, it takes cognizance of the exchange rates of the national currencies of the member countries. The EC examined the proposed procedure and concluded that it could be quite beneficial to NAOs in managing their funds and is

unlikely to have a significant long-range impact on the Union's finances. The EC referred the proposal to the Council meeting in Ottawa for action.

### Applications for New Associated Organizations

The EC recommended to the Council that the applications of the following organizations for Associated Organization Status be approved:

- International Plasma Chemistry Society
- International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics
- Southern and Eastern Africa Network of Analytical Chemists

In addition, the EC recommended that the Council approve the revised Constitution of the International Association of Catalysis Societies, a current Associated Organization.

### Conference Support

The EC recommended to the Council the approval of the new program of support for conferences on new directions in chemistry and conferences in developing countries. The new program would replace the existing separate programs and would change the approval and review procedures. Details can be found at [www.iupac.org/symposia/support.html](http://www.iupac.org/symposia/support.html).

### Revised Fund Policy and Investment Policy Statements

The Finance Committee, which meets each year in February or March, has revised its fund and investment policy statements to clarify the treatment of donations as endowment contributions. The EC approved the revised statements; these are available on the IUPAC Web site at [www.iupac.org/standing/fc.html](http://www.iupac.org/standing/fc.html).

### 2004–2005 Budget

The EC approved the budget proposed by the Finance Committee and recommended approval by the Council. The proposed budget increases total National Subscriptions by only 1%. The budget is in balance with a total expense and revenue of USD 2.57 million for the biennium. The 2004–2005 budget will also include the allocation of USD 20 000 to the Committee on Chemistry Education for use in funding projects.

### Location of Congress/General Assembly for 2007

The EC approved the application of the Italian

National Adhering Organization, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, to host the 2007 IUPAC Congress and General Assembly in Turin, Italy. The plans of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche will be presented to the Council Meeting in Ottawa; approval will then be voted on by the Council.

In 2004, the EC will meet in early April in Bangalore, India, accepting an invitation of the Indian NAO. The minutes of the EC meeting are available on the IUPAC Web site. Questions/comments should be addressed to the executive director at <secretariat@iupac.org>.

 [www.iupac.org/news](http://www.iupac.org/news)

**The IUPAC Council will elect new officers at its meeting in Ottawa, 16–17 August 2003. Nominations for the various positions are presented on page 16.**

### IUPAC Funds Three Conferences to be Held in 2004 in Developing and Disadvantaged Countries

**A**s part of its ongoing commitment to support chemistry and chemistry education in developing and economically disadvantaged countries, IUPAC recently approved funding for three innovative and compelling conferences:

- [International Conference on Biodiversity and Natural Products](#), 26–31 January 2004, New Delhi; India
- [International Symposium on Chemistry and Biological Chemistry of Vanadium](#), 3–5 September 2004, Szeged, Hungary
- [Chemical Sciences in Changing Times: Visions, Challenges, and Solutions](#), 18–24 July 2004, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

The IUPAC program of support for conferences was first implemented in 2000, but was revised earlier this year to enlarge its scope and to favor innovative topics. For more details on the current program, see the secretary general's column in the March–April 2003 issue of *C/*, or <[www.iupac.org/symposia/support.html](http://www.iupac.org/symposia/support.html)>.

The International Conference on Biodiversity and Natural Products will be the first joint meeting of the

International Conference on Biodiversity and the International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products. Leading researchers from all over the world will discuss present and future needs for mutually advantageous international cooperation in the appropriate, sustainable, and innovative utilization of bio-resources. Significant interest had been expressed in combining, in India, the more recent conference series on biodiversity with the long-standing IUPAC-sponsored conference on natural products.

The 4th International Symposium on Chemistry and Biological Chemistry of Vanadium, a relatively new symposium series comes back to Europe for its fourth year. The list of plenary lecturers is representative of the international diversity of the symposium, and tentatively includes V. Pecoraro (USA), A. Butler (USA), T. Hirao (Japan), D. Garner (UK), K. Wieghardt (Germany), D. Rehder (Germany), H. Sakurai (Japan), Y. Shechter (Israel), V. Conte (Italy), R. Wever (Netherlands), and R. Eady (UK). The symposium will cover the biological aspects of vanadium chemistry, the inorganic chemistry of vanadium, and vanadium chemistry in catalysis and organic synthesis.

Nearly 600 participants are expected at the 4th International Conference of the Chemical Societies of the South-Eastern European Countries on Chemical Sciences in Changing Times: Visions, Challenges, and Solutions. This conference will address issues related to chemistry education and will commemorate the 150th anniversary of chemical education in Serbia. The scope of the conference will be general and will include a focus on advanced materials and life sciences.

 [www.iupac.org/news/archives/2003/conf-support.html](http://www.iupac.org/news/archives/2003/conf-support.html)

### Bio-Unions to Pursue Science for Health and Well-Being

**I**n February 2003, Dr. Kallner, president of the IUPAC Division on Chemistry and Human Health, participated in a “brainstorming” meeting in Paris at which 13<sup>1</sup> bodies of the International Council for Science (ICSU) developed a plan to “empower the science community, policy makers, and the public in all countries with the knowledge base to effect their health and well-being.” Recognizing that the health sciences require the partnership of a broad range of sciences and technologies to advance human health and well-being, the initiative is a collaborative effort among ICSU Unions and other ICSU bodies.