

Division VI - Chemistry and the Environment (DCE)
Conference Call Meeting – Wednesday 10th October 2018
Minutes

1. Welcome, apologies

a. Members participating

Rai Kookana - Australia - Division President	(RK)
Hemda Garelick - UK - Division Vice President	(HG)
Roberto Terzano - Italy - Division Secretary	(RT)
Nadia Kandile - Egypt - TM	(NK)
Fani Sakellariadou - GR - TM	(FS)
Annemieke Farenhorst - Canada - TM	(AF)
Bradley Miller - US - AM	(BM)
Diane Purchase - UK - AM	(DP)
Cristina Delerue-Matos - Portugal - NR	(CDM)
Laura McConnell – US – TM	(LM)
Bipulbehari Saha - India - NR	(BS)
Bulent Mertoglu – Turkey – NR	(BM)
Irina Perminova – Russia – TM	(IP)

b. Apologies

Doo Soo Chung - Korea - TM	(DSC)
Baoshan Xing - US - AM	(BX)
Ester Heath - Slovenia - NR	(EH)
Wenlin Chen - China - AM	(WC)
Edgard Resto – Puerto Rico - AM	(ER)
John Unsworth - UK - AM	(JU)

2. New Division rules and membership criteria

RK welcomed all the participants and introduced the point by saying that IUPAC Secretary sent an e-mail asking all the Divisions, which do not already have it, to prepare an official document with Division rules to submit to IUPAC. RK prepared a draft and shared it with the Division Executive Committee (DEC) and previous Presidents for their comments and suggestions. An amended version has been made available on the Division Google Drive (Appendix A) for all the Division Members (DM). HG briefly described point by point the content of the document saying that there had been already discussion on some points, and comments are reported on a side of the draft document. HG suggested that LM and PF should contribute to finalize the document since, as past Presidents, they have more experience with the rules the Division has followed until now.

LM made a comment on the Division elections procedure, saying that usually the Past President becomes the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The composition of the Nominating Committee must be then approved by the IUPAC Secretariat. LM briefly described the mechanism of nominations and how the ballot is set up. HG described some of the eligibility criteria for President, Vice President and Secretary. RK and HG reminded that the work is in progress to finalize the document and ask all the DM to have a look at it and send suggestions in the coming two weeks before finalize it.

RK informed the DM that IUPAC Secretary asked the Division to prepare a list of membership criteria to use as a guide when selecting the division members. This list of criteria has been already finalized and sent to Secretary because the deadline had passed. However, if somebody has comments or suggestions on it, there is still time to modify it. RT informed the DM that this document is available on the Division Google Drive as Appendix B. HG commented that this list covers most of the topics of interest for the Division and which characterize it, as compared to other Divisions.

Actions:

LM, PF – to help RK, HG and RT to finalize the “Division rules” document

All – to read the “Division rules” document and send comments or suggestions to DEC within 2 weeks (1st November 2018)

HG – to produce the final draft

3. Projects

a. Project financial report

RK showed the last financial report received from IUPAC (Appendix C) and informed DM that the remaining operational budget for the biennium 2018-2019 is only 1800\$ (10.5% of the initial budget) since the organization of the last Division Meeting in Rome consumed most of it. For projects, the remaining budget is 31600\$ (78.8% of the initial budget). For the next meeting in Paris in 2019 all the expenses for TMs is expected to be covered by IUPAC central budget. LM specified that the reimbursement should cover economy airfares and three days daily allowance for each TM (about 240\$ per day). HG added that the Division is organizing three symposia for the IUPAC Congress in Paris and two projects were prepared by DP for additional funding to support the Symposia Organizers and invited speakers.

RK reminded that HG is going to participate as Division representative to the OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) meeting which will take place in The Hague (Netherlands) in November. Her expenses for this meeting will be charged on the Division operational costs.

LM remarked that IUPAC is not reimbursing the costs for registration fees at the IUPAC Conference. HG and DP informed that however IUPAC is going to waive the registration fees for the Chairpersons involved in the Meeting and for keynote speakers. RK reminded that to additionally support participation of DM and invited speakers to this Meeting, specific projects have been prepared.

b. Status of current projects

AF presented her report about the status of current projects (Appendix D). She informed that Fabienne Meyers (FM) has implemented an online tool for reporting on the status of current projects. AF described briefly how this tool works and asked feedback (to be sent to her or FM) on eventual problems or suggestions in order to improve it. AF commented that it is a very useful tool that will help to keep track of accepted projects and update project information.

AF reported about the status of accepted projects since the last meeting in Rome. Some projects have been closed, as agreed in Rome, and others have been updated or an extension of deadline should be asked, as reported in Appendix D. AF informed that RT has requested an extension of deadline for project 2016-019-2-600 until April 30th 2019. Extension has been just approved but it is not reported in the attached document.

RT informed DM that DSC sent a report about his project 2017-004-1-600 and that it is available on the Division Google Drive.

RK reminded that for project 2016-047-1-600 by BX, during the Rome meeting the Division agreed to support it with \$4500 for 2018. However, BX pointed out that this budget was not yet officially allocated by IUPAC. RK stated that he is going to follow it up with the Secretariat. LM reported that for project 2013-024-2-600 by Molineux, the manuscript submitted to Pure and Applied Chemistry needed extensive revision but it will be completed soon. RT also refers that he submitted a manuscript related to his project to Pure and Applied Chemistry in June and that he received comments from reviewers just few days ago. He is preparing a revised version to submit in about one month.

Actions:

RK – to write to IUPAC secretariat about the allocation of funds on BX project 2016-047-1-600

c. Projects under consideration

FS reported that two projects are under consideration at the moment: revised proposal 2018-013-2 by Yehuda Shevah (YS) and proposal Proposal 2018-026-1 by DP (Appendix E). As for the project by YS, the results of the online vote were: 7 supporting, 1 abstained and 1 not supporting. Therefore the proposal 2018-013-2 was approved and supported for \$2500.

As for proposal 2018-026-1, only 5 members reviewed it and the comments were: 4 very suitable, 1 suitable but should be improved. RK suggested to send the comments to DP who is going to modify the proposal accordingly. In the meantime, he suggested to vote for its approval since the project regards the symposia organised by the Division for the IUPAC Congress, as already mentioned at point 3a, and the organization is already in advanced stages. DP briefly presented the project and commented on the reviews received, finally saying that she will include the suggestions received. Except for those involved in the project (that abstained), all DM voted in favour of its approval for 5250\$.

Actions:

FS and RK - to inform Fabienne Meyers about the approval of projects and allocated budget

d. New projects in preparation

RK reported that JU submitted a sponsorship request for a Conference on agrochemicals in India in 2020 which was already supported by IUPAC and Division VI in the previous editions. In the past most of the support came from the IUPAC Emerging Regions Initiative budget and only a minor amount was provided by Division VI. RK is going to write a letter to the Emerging Regions Initiative program committee in order to support the application of JU, as the Division already did in the past. LM suggested to prepare a project proposal to submit to Division VI asking for a limited amount of money and then try to get additional funding from IUPAC and other sources like Crop Life International. RK will contact JU asking him to prepare a project proposal to submit to the Division and will write a letter of support for this initiative.

Actions:

RK – to write JU to submit a project proposal for his request of sponsorship from Division VI

RK – to write a letter to the Emerging Regions Initiative program committee in order to support the proposal by JU

e. New evaluation process

RK reminded that during the last Division meeting in Rome it was decided to set up a new procedure for project evaluation. Since then there had been an intense discussion within the DC

on how to manage that. RK showed and described a draft of the new evaluation process which has finally derived from this discussion (Appendix F). A new questionnaire has also been prepared for a more in depth assessment of projects (Appendix Fa). RK opened the discussion on the document. LM asked if it is possible to develop a tool to keep track of the project review process in order to speed up the evaluation procedure. RK supported the request to have a tracking system for the revision process. FS said that in the document, deadlines for submitting reviews are already indicated and therefore it should not be difficult to manage and follow the review process. RK raised the problem to have reviews on time and if it would be necessary to continuously remind the reviewers after the deadline has passed or to stay only with the reviews received on time. HG asked if there is a minimum number of reviews necessary before taking a decision. LM said that there is not a minimum limit to reviews. After some discussion, RK suggested to start using the new evaluation procedure with the incoming new projects and test if two weeks are enough to have a good number of responses from DM, otherwise one or two additional weeks could be added to the deadline. Anyway, specific problems related to project evaluation can be discussed during meetings and phone conferences over the year. All DM agreed with the decision.

Actions:

FS and RT – to publish the new review procedure on the share drive. This should also be shared with Fabienne.

FS, DEC – to start using the new evaluation procedure for the coming project proposals

f. New call for project proposals

RK informed DM that RT prepared a new flyer (Appendix G) to advertise the call for project proposal for the period 30th September 2018 – 30th September 2019. RT described the new call for project proposal and reported that the flyer was prepared following almost the same format used for the previous flyers. It includes research topics which cover the same areas of expertise that characterise the Division VI membership criteria, as mentioned in point 2. RK asked DM if they agree with this new call and to authorize publication on the Division website. All DM agreed and RT was asked to put the new call on the Division website.

Actions:

RT – to publish the new call for project proposals on the Division website.

4. Short sub-committees reports

a. Subcommittee on Crop Protection Chemistry

RK informed DM that a report was received from the Subcommittee on Crop Protection Chemistry and is available on the Division Google Drive (Appendix H). LM commented that the Subcommittee needs a rebooting and the next IUPAC International Congress of Crop Protection Chemistry in Ghent in 2019 would be a great opportunity to reorganize it. LM informed DM that the organization of the Conference is progressing very well and that there will be a Subcommittee meeting during the Conference. She also invited DM to propose nominations to host the next Conference of this series. ER already submitted an application to candidate Puerto Rico. LM also said that they are seeking for nominations for the Harmonization Award.

b. Subcommittee on Chemical and Biophysical Processes in the Environment

BM reported about the activities of the Subcommittee (available on Division Google Drive as Appendix I). BM informed DM that he and DP are trying to contact all the Subcommittee

members to ask confirmation of their membership and to seek for new memberships. Finally, he added that for the Chemistry and Environment Division Award for the next IUPAC Congress he is looking for members of the jury that will evaluate abstracts and posters in order to assign the prize. RK has offered to be a member of the evaluating committee. HG also offered her support. NK offered her support too.

Actions:

BM – to keep the members informed and solicit further support if needed

5. Division Budget

a. Current commitments

RK referred that current commitments mainly deal with the two projects just approved (point 3c) and HG travel expenses to attend the OPCW meeting (point 3a). Remaining operational budget should be kept for eventual needs of the Paris meeting organization in 2019.

b. Likely needs 2019

RK reminded that the major event for the Division in 2019 will be the Paris IUPAC General Assembly and Division Meeting. Beside the support that will be mostly provided by IUPAC to Division TMs, the Division applied for additional funding through projects, especially to support the organization and participation to the special symposia organized by the Division, as already discussed in points 3a and 3c. HG reminded that in the past the Division supported the participation of external participants to the Division meeting to start new collaborations and new project proposals. However, the limited operational budget remained for the biennium does not allow much support both for Division Members and external participants. LM suggested that for unsupported members and external participants who would like to attend the Division meeting in Paris, it could be useful to prepare invitation letters that could help them to get funding from their own Institutions. Another option would be to prepare new specific projects. RK suggested to inform all DM of the current budget situation of the Division and offer support through invitation letters to those who would like to participate to the next Division Meeting in Paris in order to request funding from their organizations.

RK also suggested that committee members who are interested to attend IUPAC 100 should explore other avenues, such as organising project activities coinciding with the meeting so that their participation can be facilitated through that process.

Actions:

RK – to write all DM about their interest in receiving invitation letters to support requests of funding from their Institutions to participate to the Division VI meeting in Paris in 2019

6. IUPAC Centenary Meeting

a. Preparations and updates

Beside to what already discussed in previous points, BM added that a special symposium will be organized especially for young scientists and he will try to be involved in its organization or in its activities on behalf of the Division.

LM informed DM about two interesting activities in which Division VI could be involved. One is the “Global Breakfast” which will take place in February 12th 2019. Everybody interested in this event can easily register and organize it in his home town by following the instructions reported at <https://iupac.org/100/global-breakfast/>. RK and FS already registered to participate to this event. The second one is the submission of nominations for the “periodic table of younger

chemists" award. LM describes this activity, for which additional information are available on the website <https://iupac.org/100/pt-of-chemist/>. LM encouraged submission of nominations from the Division for young scientists working in the field of environmental chemistry. BM suggested to nominate one of the young scientists that received the Division prize during the last General Assembly in Sao Paulo. LM agreed and suggested BM to check first if this person matches the criteria for eligibility. LM also suggested to try to recruit in the Division some of the awarded younger chemists working on environmental chemistry topics.

Actions:

BM – to check if any of the scientists awarded in Sao Paulo with the Division Prize are eligible for nomination for the IUPAC "periodic table of younger chemists" award.

b. Division VI Special Symposia

RK reminded DM that three special symposia are being organized by the Division. Beside to what already discussed in the previous points, DP briefly described the topics of the symposia and together with RT and RK presented the expertise of the speakers that already have confirmed their participation.

RK also suggested to invite the speakers selected for the Special Symposia to participate to the Division meeting. DP said that she will consider this suggestion. Given the expertise of some of these speakers, they could also be invited to join the Division as Members. Only one speaker is still to be announced, probably one from South America. DP and HG will try to contact ER to find a suitable invited speaker from these Countries. DP also reminded about the Division poster prize that will be awarded during the IUPAC Conference and the two projects submitted to support the organization of the symposia and poster prize.

Actions:

DP and HG – to contact ER for a South America speaker to invite for the Division VI special Symposia

7. Collaborations and outreach plans

a. Pesticides World Congress 2019

LM already reported about it in point 4a. RK just reminded DM that the Congress will take place in Ghent (Belgium) from 19 to 24 May, 2019.

b. Collaborations with ICCE

LM reported that EH suggested a new project to organize a special symposium on glyphosate during the International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment (ICCE) in June 2019 in Thessaloniki (Greece) together with the EuCheMS Division on Environmental Chemistry (DCE). AF offered to share data on glyphosate research with LM for a presentation at that meeting. RK suggested to involve Members of the EuCheMS DCE, that will be in Paris too, in the Division VI meeting in order to define better the ongoing collaborations. Opportunity for a potential project will be explored by LM.

c. Collaborations with OPCW

HG is going to participate to the OPCW meeting in The Hague (Netherlands) in November as Division VI representative. However, she is still waiting to receive details from the organizers. RK suggested HG to write an e-mail to Richard Hartshorn asking further details.

RK reminded RT to continue to explore the collaboration with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) through the contact of Mario Malinconico, the Italian NAO representative who helped the Division to organize the Rome meeting.

Actions:

HG – to write Richard Hartshorn to get details on the organization of the next OPCW meeting

RT – to continue to explore possible collaborations with Mario Malinconico and ISWA

8. Division website

RT reported about the status of the Division website. RT reminded all the DM and especially the two Subcommittees Chairs to send material to update the website pages with new information and activities. RT informed all the DM that because of the changes in the privacy policy of IUPAC, all the personal data like e-mail, address, phone number are no longer visible on the Division Members personal webpages. Therefore, if they want to have them visible, they have to provide consensus for their publication, by following a procedure that was e-mailed to all the DM few months ago. RT offered to forward a copy this e-mail to all DM.

Actions:

All – to send RT material for the Division website

RT – to send an e-mail to all DM with information on how to deal with IUPAC new privacy policy issues

9. AOB

RT informed the DM that there will be the opportunity to prepare webinars on specific subjects to be posted on the IUPAC website through a dedicate YouTube channel. The GoToWebinar platform will be used to implement these webinars. Division VI is invited to propose webinars. RK declared himself in support of this initiative and asked all DM to start considering this opportunity. HG suggested that one or two topics that will be presented at the IUPAC Congress in Paris could be the subject of webinars. RK and HG suggested to ask Lynn Soby to provide more details about webinar preparation. RT will send an e-mail to Lynn for more information.

RT reminded DM that in few months there will be a new election round to renew Division memberships and roles. The Division needs to appoint the chair of the nominating committee. RK reminded that usually the Division Past President takes this role and therefore suggests to invite PF to take this task. All DM agreed with this suggestion and RK will contact PF to ask his availability.

Actions:

RT – to write Lynn Soby about additional details on how to prepare webinars

RK – to write PF to confirm his availability as chair of the nominating committee for the next elections

10. Next conference call and meeting

RT reminded DM that the next Division meeting will take place in Paris during the next IUPAC General Assembly. The dates should be somewhere in the period 5-10 July, 2019, but still to be defined, also according to the Congress program.

The next Conference call will be as usual in February. A doodle poll will be set up to define the exact date and time.

Actions:

RT – to set up a doodle poll to define the date of the next conference call in February