



European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences
Europäische Vereinigung für Chemische und Molekulare Wissenschaften
Association Européenne pour les Sciences Chimiques et Moléculaires
Европейская Ассоциация Химических и Молекулярных Наук

Climate Action and Renewable Energy

NEWS RELEASE

New challenges for the chemical sciences as EU negotiators agree far-reaching measures to tackle climate change

EuCheMS (European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences) welcomes the EU's ambitious commitment to reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 20%, raising the share of renewable sources in total energy use by 20% and cutting energy consumption by 20% by 2020.

EuCheMS stresses the key role of chemistry in addressing this challenge. There is a significant need for increased research and development of all low-carbon energies: renewable, solar and wind energy, biomass and carbon capture and storage technologies, all of which crucially depend on innovations from chemistry. The chemical sciences have an instrumental role to play in delivering energy that is secure, affordable and sustainable.

EuCheMS believes there is a considerable challenge for chemists to improve the efficiencies of existing renewable energy technologies as well as to develop new technologies. This can only be achieved through extensive funding for research, full-scale demonstration projects and collaboration with other scientists and engineers across Europe.

EuCheMS believes that the chemical sciences will be critical in maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of biofuels. The focus of future research should be on 2nd generation biofuels in which the whole plant is being used and competition with food production is avoided. This can only be achieved through the development of new and efficient (bio)catalysts, separation processes, high throughput systems and additives.

EuCheMS looks forward to furthering its dialogue with policy-makers in order to ensure the active contribution of chemical and molecular sciences in helping the EU reach its ambitious targets.

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Note: EuCheMS – European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences - is a non-profit making association. Its object is to promote cooperation in Europe between those non-profit-making scientific and technical societies and professional institutions in the field of chemistry whose membership consists largely of individual qualified chemists/chemical scientists and whose interests include the science and/or practice of chemistry/ chemical sciences. It was founded in 1970 and currently has 50 member societies in 36 countries.

Secretariat Ms Evelyn McEwan, Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA
Tel: +44 20 7440 3303 Fax: +44 20 7437 8883 e-mail: mcewane@rsc.org