



EuCheMS and ERC

EuCheMS held a lunch meeting, sponsored by Angelika Niebler MEP, at the European Parliament in Brussels on 13 July at which it welcomed the formation of the European Research Council (ERC). Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS President, led the discussion, Wolfram Koch, Simon Campbell and Rodney Townsend, Francesco de Angelis, and Michel Che, represented respectively GDCh, RSC, SCI and SFC.

During the meeting, which was attended by Philippe Busquin MEP, Jerzy Buzek MEP, Jens Rostrup-Nielsen, Member of the ERC Scientific Committee, and Antonia Mochan, from the Cabinet of Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik, EuCheMS explained that it is keen to work with the ERC in support of the chemical and molecular sciences community.

EuCheMS believes that, as the ERC develops, it should aim to complement programmes of the nation-state research councils. It urges that the emphasis in the EU Framework Programme on fundamental research in the chemical sciences, as an underpinning core competency, should be reflected in funding support.

EuCheMS supports the principle that the ERC should use scientific quality as the sole criterion for support and that a high priority should be given to supporting the promising young investigators who will be needed to provide the forward thinking research base of the future. It endorsed the ERC proposal for 'Starting Independent Research Grants' (SIRGs).

The [EuCheMS position statement](http://www.euchems.org/News/index.asp) is on the web site at <http://www.euchems.org/News/index.asp>