

## **EDITORIAL**

### **President's Letter**

Dear Members of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA),

Prof. Uwe Pischel has finished his two-year mandate as President of the EPA. I would like to thank him for his commitment to our association. This period was marked by many difficulties which were caused by the pandemic. A new President had to be elected. During the meeting in Geneva on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Executive Committee asked me to candidate for this position. On the EPA General Council which was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 during the 28<sup>th</sup> IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry, I was elected President for the next term. I am very honored by this election. During the last two terms, I was editor of the EPA Newsletter. Furthermore since 2018, I am Associate Editor of our journal Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences.

Our website is an important communication tool of our association. During recent years, it has been considerably improved. Maybe we should use it more systematically to communicate messages concerning photochemistry in Europe and worldwide.

The EPA Newsletter strengthens the corporate identity and the cohesion among the members of our association. There was some debate as to whether we should discontinue the printed version. However, on several occasions, members expressed their interest in the newsletter and particularly in its printed version. During the meeting in Geneva on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2022, the Executive Committee has decided to edit one issue per year, preferentially in December.

During the last years, our activities were very much hampered by the restriction in connection with the pandemic. In particular many meetings were canceled or converted to online-meetings. As we all know such meetings can only partially replace the personal presence. They should be considered as an additional tool to strengthen our activities. Let's hope that the situation will definitively improve and we can return to normality.

We should continue our efforts to interest younger people for all domains of photochemistry and to support them when they are working in corresponding research domains. This can also be done by reinforcing and coordinating our activities with the national photochemical associations

or scientific societies. We observe that the number of members is high for some countries while it is low for others. Currently the situation seems to change a bit because joining the EPA by our website is principally easy. In this regard, we should try to increase the membership in eastern European countries. Especially in these wartimes, we should express our solidarity with our Ukrainian colleagues and the Ukrainian people. The conditions for scientific cooperation with Ukraine will certainly be improved after the war and European photochemists should participate to such a cooperation. Also many colleagues from Russia have to leave their country due to restriction of freedom rights and because they disagree with the politics of the current government. They should be supported. On this occasion, we should remember that science is free. This freedom is one of the fundamental rights in the European Union and all democratic countries. International cooperation in science contributes to mutual understanding between peoples and states as well as to peace.

The cooperation of the EPA with the sister organizations can be intensified. In this regard, the Inter-American Photochemistry Society (APS) and the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA), the IUPAC Subcommittee on Photochemistry should particularly be mentioned.

The financial situation of the EPA is stable. Thus we can continue to give support especially to younger colleagues with our awards or registration fees for international meetings. The support of summer/winter schools will also be continued.

I hope to continue the beneficial work of the past presidents of the EPA Executive Committee to shape the EPA as a representative, tolerant and transparent Association of all European Photochemists.

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