

ROMANIAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AT ITS 90 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

After the end of the Great War when Romania was reborn from its own ash as the Phoenix bird, a new age of discoveries and intensive creative urge in many activity fields has become reality.

On the 27th of January 1919 the Romanian Chemical Society (RCS) was established, having as a founding member and leader Prof. Stefan Minovici (1867-1935), the well-known scientist and a true creator of a modern chemistry school that has played an important role in its development. The envisaged mission of this Society was to gather and concentrate the efforts of all those involved in one way or another in chemistry in order to organise and carry out national and international conferences, seminars and various debates on fundamental and applied chemistry and also to represent the interests of this outstanding professional “guild”. Most of these eminent chemists of that period graduated abroad and spent a lot of time as part of various professional groups of those countries and were very eager to apply the acquired knowledge in developing the local economy.

Generally, the chemists are known as very imaginative and novelty seekers, but also as persons that have to comply with some strict rules in practising an activity full of many unknown risks.

After only five years since the establishment of the Romanian Chemical Society one succeeded in 1924 to organise the first National Congress of Chemistry at Sinaia, the preferred Royal Summer Residence. Soon after this, in 1925, as an international recognition of the highest standards achieved by the Romanian Chemical Society, IUPAC has given its stamp of approval for the 4th International Conference of Pure and Applied Chemistry to be held in Bucharest, where more than 100 renowned chemists from abroad took part.

Between 1927 and 1936 the activity of the Society has extended beyond Bucharest, three other locations from various parts of Romania being directly involved in organising three national conferences under the RCS guidance that has edited its first scientific biannual journal “Buletinul Societatii de Chimie din Romania – Romanian Chemical Society Bulletin” to inform about the activity of society.

After the Second World War a lot of deep social and political transformations took place that resulted in a diminished up to the interdiction point of freedom of association and free debates.

The secondary and higher education Romanian teaching system, particularly that of chemistry, as well as the industrial production activities have known an extensive development based mainly on the use of available Romanian resources.

One has established a number of publications which are still considered as worthwhile reading scientific journals, such as *Revista de Chimie*, *Mase plastice*, *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*, now ISI indexed journals.

After 1989 one has reverted to normal conditions and one could take advantage of freedom of association and freedom of expression so that the Romanian Chemical Society has received in 1992 the right from the Court of Law to continue its activity based on these new normal rights, having a divisions partition in accordance with the modern development trends in this field and also with a deep involvement in organising the scientific meetings at regional, national and international level.

The RCS was accepted as a member with full rights in 1996 by Federation of the European Chemical Societies (FECS) and since 2001 has participated regularly to its activity.

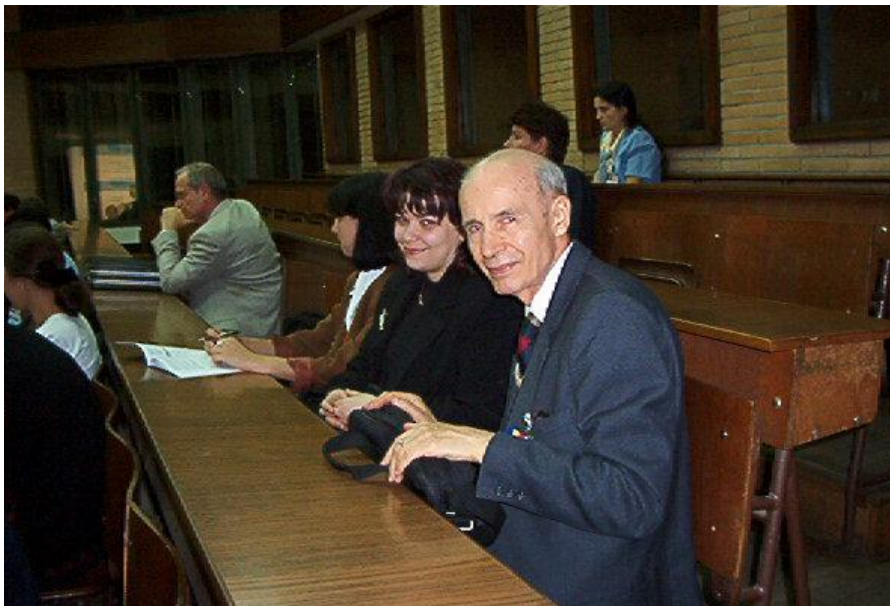
At the General Assembly organised by the RCS at Bucharest in 2004 one has made a Historical decision to transform FECS by establishing a new professional association, namely EuCheMS (European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences) a Belgian legal entity that gathers now more than 50 European Chemical societies representing more than 150,000 individual members.



FECS General Assembly, Bucharest 2004 - from left Gabor Naray-Szabo - Acting President, Giovanni Natile - President Elect, Evelyn McEwan - General Secretary, Reto Bataglia - Past President

Starting from 1998, The Romanian Chemical Society has been involved successfully in a series of International Conferences of South-Eastern European Chemical Societies (ICOSECS), which take place at every two years in one of the above member country. RCS has organised the third conference in 2002 in Bucharest, more than 650 participants attending it, being appreciated as a leader in imposing superior standards in organising this

series of conferences. Later on, RCS has organised and sponsored the participation of Romanian scientists, members of this society to ICOSECS-4 (Belgrad-2004), ICOSECS-5 (Ohrid-2006), ICOSECS-6 (Sofia-2008).



Acad. Sahini - former RCS President, ICOSECS 2002

Following a process of enlargement and decentralization of its activity, the 3000 member RCS has established apart from the two main branches in Bucharest, organized around Politehnica University of Bucharest and University of Bucharest, also an important number of other branches in the following locations: Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Craiova, Galaţi, Iaşi, Oradea, Piteşti, Ploieşti, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Satu Mare, Timişoara, Târgovişte, Târgu Mureş.

In these branches work a lot of chemists and chemical engineers as part of Higher and Secondary Education system, research and design institutions as well as various industrial companies where chemistry component determines a significant economic contribution.

Taking advantage of this 90th Anniversary of The Romanian Chemical Society we would like to wish all the chemists, chemical engineers as well as all the other people involved here or abroad, in one way or another, with this wonderful activity field, a life full of professional and personal satisfactions.

Corneliu RADU

Romanian Chemical Society Vice-President and Treasurer