

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the EFCE Section on Membrane Engineering**

17<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 9:00-13:00, Room L1, ECCE12 Florence (Italy)

The meeting of the Section on Membrane Engineering was held on September 17, 2019, during the 12<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Chemical Engineering (ECCE12, Florence). The list of participants is attached.

After a short welcome, Prof. Enrico Drioli opened the meeting. This time, scientific presentations were also included in the Agenda and Prof. Patricia Luis, from the University of Louvain (Belgium), gave a lecture on her vision on the future of membrane-based processes with the talk: “Membrane Technology: From the Green to the Blue”. Then, Prof. Enrico Drioli presented the competitive development of China in producing and exporting chemical processes, often based on membrane operations, with the talk: “Progresses in China in process engineering”.

After the scientific presentations, a break was made, in order to allow the Section members attendance to the ECCE12 Plenary Lecture.

Once back, the Section meeting re-started following the points reported in the Agenda.

- *Activities of the EFCE Section on Membrane Engineering: possible events 2019-2021*

Prof. Drioli informed the participants about different events:

- The EU-CHINA Cooperation Conference on Membrane Technology Innovation, held on July 9-10, 2019 in Weihai (China), in combination with the opening Ceremony of the Weihai Industrial site.
- The Membrane and Electromembrane Processes Conference-MELPRO 2020, that will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, in April 14-17, 2020.
- The Italy-Korea Workshop and the Workshop on Membrane Distillation & Related Technologies, planned for April 2021 in Ravello (SA), Italy.
- The special edition of Euromembrane in 2022, for the 40 years of the EMS, that will be held in Sorrento (NA), Italy.

He pointed out that the EFCE does not financially support the events, but takes care of their dissemination and publicity. He, then, asked participants to inform him if there is any intention to organize other events, suggesting that the topic could be more general than “membranes”. In this respect, it could be important to have a formal link with other Associations, like IDA, IWA, etc., and to cooperate on specific topics (e.g. water) where the membranes role can be highlighted. All members of the Section will be asked about their interest in having their name

suggested as link between the Section on Membrane Engineering and the other Associations. Candidacies can also be presented to be part of Editorial Boards of new scientific Journals.

- *Current trends in membrane technology of interest for the Section: new application fields and supporting technologies*

Prof. Drioli indicated space engineering with membranes as a field of interest. Specifically:

- i) the re-design of NF for its use in space environments;
- ii) the agriculture in space (hydrogels, etc.).

Further topics of interest will be asked to all members.

- *Participation of the Section on Membrane Engineering to the Section on Energy*

Members will be asked to propose their candidacy for participating to the EFCE Section on Energy.

- *Doctorates in Membrane Engineering (EUDIME and new proposals)*

Prof. Drioli informed that the new EUDIME submission was not approved. It could be interesting to promote the education in membrane engineering at global level (e.g., within the World Membrane Association). Nevertheless, every year there are new calls to make proposals for having granted one PhD.

- *Awards in Membrane Engineering*

Next Award in Membrane Engineering will be given in 2021, in occasion of Euromembrane. The call will be ready in 2020 and it will be important to disseminate the information among Universities and Institutes.

- *Others*

Two main points were discussed:

- i) The importance of finding a way to create teaching courses on membranes;
- ii) The benefit of involving industrial Companies in the activities of the Section and/or in the events of the EFCE.

Referring to the second point, Prof. Luis suggested to involve EUROPIC, that has many links with Companies, while Prof. De Pinho proposed a contact she has with a representative of the membrane group of EXXON.

It was agreed to invite the industrial contacts to next meetings/events.