

EUROPEAN CARBON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the ECA Meeting held during the CARBON 2009 Conference in Biarritz, 18th June 2009-10-09

Participants

Prof. Dr. R. Menéndez (Spain, presiding)
Prof. Dr. J. Rodríguez-Mirasol (Spain, acting secretary)
Prof. Dr. W. Klose (Germany)
Dr. W. Frohs (Germany)
Dr. Bénédicte Allard (France)
Dr. M. Monthieux (France)
Dr. G. B. Neighbour (Great Britain)
Dr. T. Wickham (Great Britain)
Dr. S. Blazewicz (Poland)
Prof. Dr. J. Machnikowski (Poland)

The meeting started at 13:00 on Thursday 18, June 2009.

1. Welcome from the chair.
2. The agenda and the Minutes of the Nagano meeting were previously approved by electronic mail with only minor changes.
3. Reports on the activities of the National Groups

Dr. Blazewicz informed that the Polish Carbon Group would have elections in September. The Polish Group is integrated by 105 people. Dr. Blazewicz pointed out that the Group had organized two national meetings on carbon related issues, with considerable international participation, and that an extraordinary effort had been made to strengthen the relations between the Academy and Industry. This Group had also participated as co-organizer in a national conference on Carbon materials and Composites.

Dr. Klose pointed out that the German Group is integrated by 130 members including companies, scientists and engineers, and he summarized the activities of the Group as follows: 2 meetings as usual; the spring meeting with Japanese colleagues as a 1st joint German-Japanese Symposium on Research and Development of Carbon Materials held in SGL Carbon, with 80 attendees. The fall meeting at the Evonik Company with 50 participants. Dr. Klose also pointed out that the German Carbon Group is present at other national meetings like those of Materials and Ceramics as subcommittees for carbon (safety) solids.

Dr. Monthieux referred to the active work of the French Group during the last year with the organization of the CARBON Conference. Because of this, the Group did

not have its regular Annual meeting in 2009. Moreover the Group had a joint meeting with the Brazilians on carbon materials in Bordeaux, the week before the CARBON Conference.

The British Carbon Group, as reported by Dr. Neighbour, was involved in the organization of four meetings: Capital Carbon, Carbon in Health, Energy and Environment, Securing the Safe Performance of Graphite Reactor Cores and Nanotec. Moreover, an agreement was signed with the Brazilian Carbon Society.

The members were informed of the activities of the Spanish Carbon Group by Dr. Menéndez and these included the organization of a short course on technologies for water treatment, the organization of CESEP 2009 and the periodical editing of the Spanish Carbon Group Journal. No national meeting was organized in 2009, being the next one in 2010 in Girona.

4. The think tank initiative

This initiative proposed by young scientists from the Spanish Carbon Group was analyzed and accepted last year by all the ECA members and the final proposal, with a definitive program and dates is expected for the end of November. Dr. Rodríguez-Mirasol informed us that efforts are currently under way by the Spanish Carbon Group to organize the workshop under the framework of the International University of Andalucía, in Málaga, a place with special infrastructures for organizing such meetings.

5. ECA strategy

The possibility of participating more actively as an organization in discussion forums was analyzed. The lack of definition relating to some of the new carbon materials and the fact that they are registered as products instead of materials, as in the case of fibres, is creating problems for the carbon industry concerning health aspects. The adoption of an official position by the ECA and an awareness of the decisions at European level could be of great benefit. Dr. Frohs, with the collaboration of the rest of the members, will compile the necessary information and take the necessary steps such as writing a letter to explain our position.

6. ECA award

The procedure and results of the 1st ECA Award were discussed.

7. Opening ECA to other countries

It was agreed that we should improve communications in order to be able to reach other European carbon scientists.

8. Report on the 2012 CARBON Conference in Cracow

Dr. Blazewicz informed us about the status of the organization. He commented that Krakow has one of the oldest Universities in Poland and many infrastructures for undertaking this type of conference organization and that no special problems are envisaged.

Dr. Menéndez proposed preparing a report after the CARBON conference concerning the main problems that had arisen during the conference in order to prevent them from occurring in the next conference.

9. Election of the location for the 2015 CARBON Conference

The proposal of the chair that should go to Dresden was agreed by all.

10. Elections of the ECA chair for 2010-2013

Dr. Monthioux was proposed by the chair and the proposal was unanimously supported. Dr. Monthioux will begin his activities, according to the statutes, in the 2010 CARBON Conference in Clemson.

11. Other business

Modification of the ECA Statutes in order to be able to include other nationalities as members of ECA was proposed for the next meeting.

The position of the ECA with respect to the forthcoming First Asian Carbon Conference was clear in the way to support the idea of only one international conference on carbon every year, rotating between Europe, America and Asia, according to the agreement of ECA/ACS/AACG. The decision was to talk with ACS about the steps to be taken.

The Polish Carbon Group presented the ECA council the “Torch” symbol (see images attached) to be presented and given to the next organizer (Marl Thies, Clemson University, USA) on the occasion of Biarritz Conference. Council members expressed their gratefulness thanks to Stanislaw Blazewicz for his role in having the Torch actually made with the sponsorship of SGL-Carbon.

The meeting ended at 14:20.

