



The EUChemSoc Societies have taken the significant step into the future by merging their traditional journals, to form two leading chemistry journals, the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* and the *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*. Three further EUChemSoc Societies (Austria, Czech Republic and Sweden) are Associates of the two journals.

## COVER PICTURE

The cover picture shows a crown-based lateral macrobicyclic designed by our research group as a potential ligand for  $\text{Pb}^{\text{II}}$  complexation. Lead is recognized worldwide as a serious environmental pollutant, and although it is a natural component of soil, water and vegetation, anthropogenic emissions have contributed to the dramatic increase in its level in the environment. The removal of lead from the environment and biological systems is the aim of many research groups. In particular, we are interested in the design of  $\text{Pb}^{\text{II}}$ -complexing agents based on crown frameworks. In this picture, the complexed  $\text{Pb}^{\text{II}}$  ion has been replaced by our beautiful but polluted blue planet. The cover picture symbolizes the need for innovative ideas to solve the problem of environmental lead pollution – one solution includes the design of selective complexing agents. Details are discussed in the article by A. de Blas, T. Rodríguez-Blas et al. on p. 1635 ff.

