

## Celebrating Ten Years



Ten years ago in an editorial I wrote “In 1997 a new journal structure for the chemical literature in Europe will begin to evolve”. The occasion was the appearance of the first issue of the joint journal *Chemische Berichte/Recueil*, the prelude to the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* (*EurJIC*) that came into being in 1998 with the participation of six

European Chemical Societies. Another group of societies was waiting in the wings to amalgamate their journals, the criterion for entry, a year later. More recently, others joined as Associate Members, without merging journals, to bring the total number of societies that are now involved to 13 from 12 different countries (see Table 1).

Table 1. The European Chemical Societies that co-own *EurJIC*.

Country	Society	Founded
Austria	Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker (GÖCh)	1897
Belgium	La Société Royale de Chimie (SRC)	1887
Belgium	Koninklijke Vlaamse Chemische Vereniging (KVCV)	1939
Czech Republic	Česká Společnost Chemická (ČSCh)	1866
France	Société Française de Chimie (SFC)	1857
Germany	Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh)	1867
Greece	Association of Greek Chemists (AGC)	1924
Hungary	Magyar Kémikusok Egyesülete (MKE)	1907
	Magyar Tudományos Akadémia (MTA)	1825
Italy	Società Chimica Italiana (SCI)	1909
The Netherlands	Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging (KNCV)	1903
Portugal	Sociedade Portuguesa de Química (SPQ)	1911
Spain	Real Sociedad Española de Química (RSEQ)	1903
Sweden	Svenska Kemistamsfundet	1883

### 13 Societies from 12 Countries

On this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the merger journal *EurJIC*, a number of people will still remember that the discussions on the foundation of joint European Journals in the field of

chemistry had started gaining momentum in the 1980s. The process was long and time-consuming, even more so because many chemical societies were not ready to give up their own specialized journals at the same time. Furthermore, not all interested societies owned a journal. The regular changing of boards and chairs of the several societies, as was required by their by-laws, also did not help to speed up the process. In Europe, the Royal Society had, and still has, its own publishing house, and understandably, wanted to keep that successful institution.

In addition, some commercial publishers in the 1970s and 1980s had launched a number of new journals, with titles containing the words “European Journal of .....”. Already in the early 1990s, to protect some titles, the names *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* (*EurJOC*) and *European Journal of Inorganic Chemis-*

*try* were deposited for possible future use. The key societies from five countries were almost ready to begin the new journals in 1993, but at that stage only the new general chemistry journal, *Chemistry – A European Journal*, was realized. That journal, which several societies co-own, was eventually launched in 1995.

At a crucial meeting in 1996, the German and Dutch chemical societies made the historic decision to merge their journals *Chemische Berichte* and *Recueil des Travaux Chimiques des Pays-Bas* (J. Royal Neth. Chem. Soc.), initially under the name of *Chemische Berichte / Recueil*. This process appeared to be a good catalyst, as in 1997 the six chemical societies indeed decided to merge their organic/inorganic chemistry journals to form two new journals with the names that had been deposited earlier: *EurJIC* and *EurJOC*. The first issues of the two journals appeared on January 1, 1998.

The national chemical societies must be congratulated on implementing their modern concept for European publishing, which today still remains open for further European Chemical Societies to benefit.

Of course the authorship and readership of the journal is not restricted to these countries and societies but is open to the international community – as we say “*EurJIC* is made in Europe for the world”. We can, in fact, see the international interest, for instance, by the percentage of downloads of published papers distributed over the globe (see Figure 1). A high-quality journal, nowadays, is by definition international. The ACS and RSC journals have always been open to non-member chemists; likewise, *EurJIC* (and the family of European Journals) has always welcomed scientists from non-partner countries (see Figure 2). It is indeed a pleasure to see that we enjoy an increasing interest from

### A Growing Family of European Journals

### First Issue in January 1998

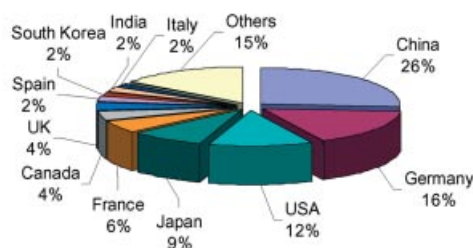
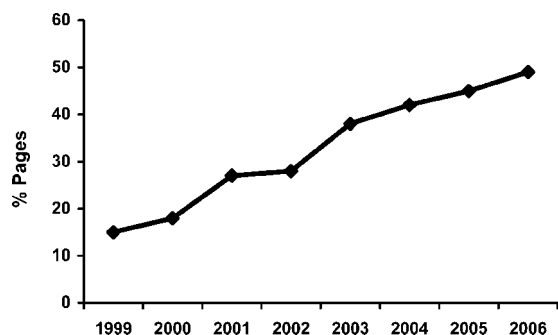


Figure 1. International interest in *EurJIC* as reflected by the percentage of downloads from each country.



**Figure 2.** The percentage of published papers by scientists from non-partner countries.

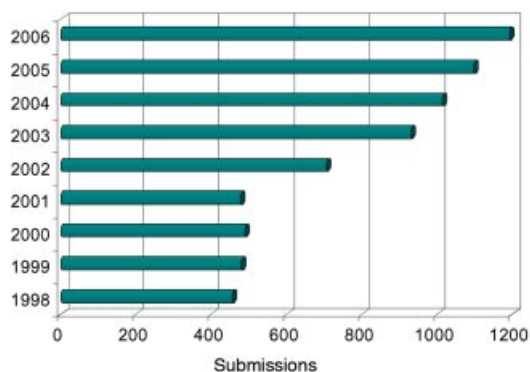
top scientists outside Europe. The dominance of any one country as a result of the merger of national journals has been reduced, and the authorship has become international.

After 10 volumes it is legitimate to ask: How has the journal evolved over these years? Since the inauguration of the journal, the success of *EurJIC* can be seen in terms of the increase in the number of submissions (see Figure 3) and the number of pages published (see Figure 4). More importantly, the rejection rate,

which can serve as an indicator of high quality, has also increased substantially (see Figure 5). The ISI impact factor has also risen and is currently stable at a value of 2.5. In 1998, *EurJIC* started with 12

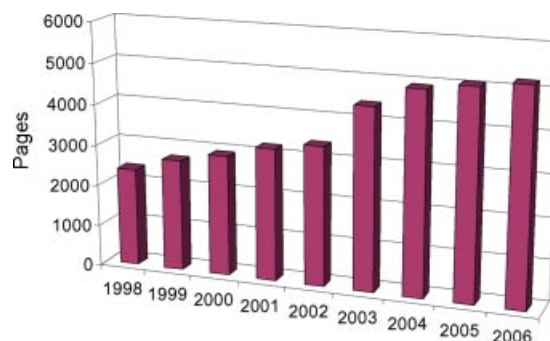
issues per year. This number rose to 24 in the year 2003, and, to enable quick access to the latest developments in inorganic chemistry, *EurJIC* publishes 36 issues per year from 2007.

**36 Issues per  
Year from 2007**

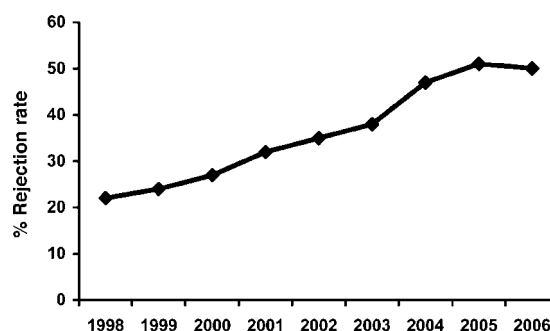


**Figure 3.** Number of submissions to *EurJIC* per year from 1998 to 2006.

The first new cover, with a changing cover picture for each issue, appeared in 2002. The authors of high-quality contributions were invited to submit proposals for the cover picture. As this concept was well received, we have continued with this tradition.



**Figure 4.** Page development of *EurJIC* from 1998 to 2006.



**Figure 5.** Rejection rates from 1998 to 2006.

A new layout to assist browsing with a colored table of contents, text as well as graphic, and a “Key Topic” rang in the 10<sup>th</sup> year.

As we live in an ever-changing and rapidly growing technological world, *EurJIC* realizes the importance of not only keeping up-to-date, but of being at the forefront. Although our readers have had access to e-mailing Alerts for some time, RSS feeds are now available (an RSS feed provides updates of the content of web pages to a computer, or even to a mobile phone). Also *EurJIC* is a member of CrossRef, which is a service that links reference citations to the online content of those references.

In 1997 I already wrote: “The word *European* is not meant to be exclusive”. The present jubilee issue shows that the chemistry world has fully accepted the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* as a high-ranking inorganic chemistry journal by the wide range of contributions from all over the world. Now we can congratulate the authors, reviewers, readers, editors, societies, and publisher on a mature journal, which has found its position in the international community. I wish *EurJIC* a successful continuation.

**Made in Europe  
for the World**

Jan Reedijk  
Chairman of the Editorial Board, *EurJIC*