

**SLOVAK NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY**

Polymer Institute of the
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Dúbravská cesta 9, 842 36 Bratislava
SLOVAKIA

To: IUPAC Bureau
c/o IUPAC Secretariat
P.O.Box 13757
104 T.W. Alexander Drive
Building 19
Research Triangle Park
North Carolina 27709-3757
U.S.A.

Bratislava, April 2, 1999

Dear colleagues:

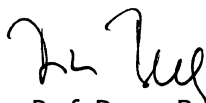
The Slovak National Committee of Chemistry (SNC) for IUPAC met on March 25 to analyse the matter of IUPAC restructuring. In the course of recent months, we have discussed these questions also with numerous colleagues from different countries who were (or presently are) active in various IUPAC bodies. We arrived at conclusions which, according to our opinion, should be presented to the IUPAC Council in Berlin next August. Please, consider this letter an official move in this direction.

We support the general content of the SDIC proposals for increasing the efficiency of IUPAC in most respects but we feel that some particular points should be thoroughly reconsidered during the Council meeting in Berlin. For example we believe that it is a mistake to terminate all the commissions, as suggested. We therefore ask Council to instruct the Bureau not to terminate all commissions in 2001 but to set up a Committee to examine the consequences of terminating commissions and to propose procedures for so doing. This Committee should comprise in its membership a majority of people with extensive recent experience of commission work.

Several other our proposals for the Council discussion were presented in our recent letter to the President of Union, a copy is enclosed.

Looking forward to future cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



a.Prof. Dusan Berek, PhD, DSc.
Chair

Slovak National Committee of Chemistry
for IUPAC
Bratislava, Slovakia

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SLOVAKIA

Prof. Joshua JORTNER

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ISRAEL

Bratislava, April 2, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

The Slovak National Committee of Chemistry (SNC) for IUPAC met on March 25 to thoroughly analyse the matter of IUPAC restructuring. In the course of recent months, we have discussed these questions also with numerous colleagues from different countries who were (or presently are) active in various IUPAC bodies. We arrived at conclusions which, according to our opinion, should be presented to the IUPAC Council in Berlin next August. Please, consider this letter an official move in this direction.

1... SNC generally supports the activities of the Bureau that are oriented toward the restructuring of IUPAC. We feel that some improvement in efficiency, expressed as a ratio of results to cost, is needed to revive the organisation and to increase its visibility. On the other hand, we believe that the steps taken should be prepared very thoroughly to avoid mistakes which could afterwards be difficult to repair.

2... The General structure of IUPAC. In our opinion, the efficient vertical and horizontal structure of Union should be preserved. We believe that Divisions alone cannot master the whole variety of Union activities and that most Commissions should be retained. We can believe that some Commissions have been inactive, and we therefore propose the introduction of a system of thorough and repeated evaluation of all Commissions. Those unable to present results to demonstrate their usefulness should cease to exist. However, if all Commissions are summarily and simultaneously terminated, important, even irreparable mistakes are likely to be made. Many good active people may be lost while some inactive people may return to create new inactive commissions.

The appointment/election mechanism of Division officers should be revised.
The idea of rotation (President Elect, President, Past President) is very good but a four-year presidential term is too long: 3x4 makes 12 years of service while 3x2 = 6 years should do.

3... Economic considerations. The Strategy Development and Implementation Committee (SDIC) is right in their consideration of the necessity to assure the proper distribution of financial support that will in turn lead to the increased efficiency defined above. Can the present investment into the top management of IUPAC (Bureau, ...) be considered efficient?

We agree that travel of titular members should not automatically be supported during their entire proposed term of service. Instead, we would propose evaluation of all TMs to avoid the situation that inactive TMs will create new projects and absorb further support. It is very controversial to propose that junior IUPAC officers should support themselves from the non-IUPAC sources for their IUPAC activities, including travel. This would immediately terminate the activity of many people from developing countries and the Central/East European region. Moreover, money taken from the budgets of "rich" institutions to support e.g. travel of their IUPAC representatives may be needed to support young chemists in their scientific activities.

4... The Project-driven system. Many Commissions and most probably all Nomenclature Commissions ARE project driven: A topic proposed by one Commission member and approved during a Commission meeting is first discussed among a restricted team ("project") and later within the entire Commission. We would like to propose a hybrid system for a longer, say 10 years, transition period: some projects would be launched as before and others under the newly-proposed scheme. This transition period would allow IUPAC to collect sufficient experience before taking a final decision.

5... Long range goals of IUPAC. We propose the following goal:

"(11) IUPAC will help the developing countries and the Central/East European countries to create opportunities for young researchers within their countries with the aim of reducing their exodus both from the field of chemistry and from their home countries". Unfortunately, the present goal #7 for 1998-99 does not include this important function.

6... The future activities of IUPAC should particularly include:

- a) the creation of an Electronic Data Base of Critical Values
- b) the creation of various "IUPAC Reference Materials". These RM could be spins-off from round-robin tests organized by IUPAC. They would enormously improve the visibility of IUPAC among chemists in general but especially industrial chemists.

We are looking forward to future cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



a.Prof. Dusan Berek, PhD, DSc.
Chair of the Slovak
National Committee of Chemistry
for IUPAC