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Press release

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Exciting times ahead

Dr. Hermann Feise was appointed Vice-President of the European Federal of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) with effect from January 1. Feise, who has a PhD in chemical engineering and is a senior research manager with the German chemical company BASF, has big plans for his period in office.

"There are exciting times ahead," says Feise, whose aspiration is to debureaucratise the EFCE. Set up during the time of the Cold War in 1953, the organization's main mission for decades was to nurture contacts with peers on the both sides of the Iron Curtain. The EFCE's structure is based on that rationale. Decision-making is possible in many cases only with the agreement of all member organisations, for instance.

What may have been vital during the East-West conflict is sluggish and inflexible 18 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Feise contends. "We need to take up issues swiftly and mount a rapid response," he states. Hermann Feise is therefore moving for member organizations to transfer their direct voting rights to their representatives. This will make decision-making processes more effective and the task of a delegate more attractive, he believes.

Alongside the archaic organizational structure, Feise is also critical of what he sees as the EFCE's excessively low level of influence on the European level. "It's time for the scientific voice of chemical engineers to be heard in Brussels," the engineer demands. As part of that process, he believes the EFCE must adopt a higher public profile and express an opinion on European policy issues with a bearing on research and the chemical industry. To Feise, Europe doesn't end at its current political borders. "European is as European does," the EFCE Vice-President says. Hermann Feise believes that the kind of information-sharing that is part of daily life on the technological level must also function in science, citing as examples existing EFCE alliances with organizations in Turkey and Israel.

Dr. Hermann J. Feise studied mechanical engineering at Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany, completing his Masters (Dipl.-Ing.) degree in 1990. In 1996 he obtained his PhD for a thesis titled 'Modeling the mechanical behavior of bulk solids'.
From 1990 to 1996 he worked as a lecturer at the Technical University of Braunschweig, Institute of Mechanical Process Engineering. After 2 years as principal investigator in particle science and technology at the DuPont Central Research & Development, Wilmington, DE, USA, he returned to Germany in 1998 and was appointed Senior Research Engineer at the Process Engineering Department of BASF AG, Ludwigshafen. Since 2003 he has been Senior Research Manager in Particle Formation and Handling with that BASF department. His scientific areas of responsibility are drying, solids handling, agglomeration, and mixing and coating of particles. He is the author of 53 research publications and has held 28 conference presentations. Currently, he is co-author of the online Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS).
He was awarded the 1999 Johannes Moeller Award of the Moeller-Stiftung fuer Wissenschaft und Forschung (a science and research foundation), of which he has been an award committee member since 2004.
Since 2001 he has been a delegate to the EFCE Working Party on Mechanics of Particulate Solids, and for the period of 2002 - 2007 he served as its chairman.
He is Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on Agglomeration and Solids Handling of the German VDI Gesellschaft Verfahrenstechnik und Chemieingenieurwesen (GVC; the German Society of Chemical Engineering) and a member of the Forschungs-Gesellschaft Verfahrens-Technik (GVT; the Chemical Engineering Research Society). In 2006 he was appointed a member of the International Editorial Board of the journal Chemical Engineering and Technology . (pat)