

Press release

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A new perspective on the role of EFCE

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EFCE President, Professor Richard Darton, has launched a major review of the federation's future direction with a Europe wide electronic consultation that will run throughout January 2011.

Darton is keen to define a clear strategy and direction for EFCE, which represents more than 100,000 chemical and process engineers across the length and breadth of Europe, including Israel and Turkey. The views of process engineers in 40 member societies are being gathered via a short electronic questionnaire which examines attitudes and opinions on key topics including climate change, biotechnology and professional ethics. The survey also explores future needs and expectations around training and international mobility.

Richard Darton said: *"Europe has changed dramatically since EFCE was formed in 1953. We have witnessed the treaties of Rome and Maastricht, the fall of the Iron Curtain and a major expansion of the European Union, which now embraces 500 million inhabitants. At the same time, the technical; landscape has changed too. Population growth, climate change, globalisation, and the pressing need for sustainable development presents new challenges for chemical engineers."*

He went on to say: *"It is essential that the organizations which qualify and represent chemical engineer maintain a strong understanding of the needs and expectations of their members. The findings of our survey will be used to help EFCE and its member societies prioritise and target activities in order to support chemical and process engineers in Europe."* The survey, which is open to all chemical, biochemical and process engineers in Europe, can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EFCEQuestionnaire>

The survey will remain live until **31 January 2011**.

The findings will be published in Brussels on 30 March 2011 and the President of the European Parliament, Professor Jerzy Buzek, has been invited to respond.

Notes to editors:

Founded in 1953, the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non profit making association, the object of which is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering of development of the discipline.

The Federation's current mission statement can be downloaded at http://www.efce.info/efce_media/Bilder/Startseite/EFCE_Will-p-641.pdf