

Press release

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14/2011
25 September 2011

Darton calls for shift from survey, to strategy to delivery

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Professor Richard Darton has been re-elected to serve a second two-year term as President of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE). Darton, who is Professor of Engineering Science at Oxford University, UK, received the unanimous support of the EFCE General Assembly, which met in Berlin prior to the opening of the 8th European Congress of Chemical Engineering with over 3,000 delegates attending.

The EFCE General Assembly also saw the re-election of Akzo Nobel's **Dr. Wridzer Bakker** to serve a second term in the role of Executive Vice-President. **Professor Rafiqul Gani** from the Technical University of Denmark was elected to succeed BASF's Dr. Hermann Feise as Scientific Vice-President.

During his first term, Darton made a concerted effort to improve the strategic focus of EFCE and strengthen links with member societies, working parties and sections across Europe. This work culminated in the publication of the findings of the 'Perspectives Survey' in March 2011. The survey highlighted a range of challenges facing the European chemical engineering community. Energy and climate change issues featured strongly, along with mobility and employment issues, professional ethics and the continuing emergence of biological engineering.

Immediately after his re-election, Darton went on to address a forum of Industry and academic leaders from 20 European nations. Drawing on the findings of the survey, he called for any early shift from strategy to delivery and he said:

"The purpose of this survey was to inform a strategy and now EFCE is better placed to act in a way that is consistent with what chemical engineers across Europe are telling us.

We must ensure that biofutures feature in our scientific programme. We must raise awareness of the importance of ethical issues and the way in which they should be approached by the professional engineer; and we must explore ways of responding to the demand for more factual information on climate change issues.

Also, we must acknowledge that our community is becoming more mobile. This presents a tricky challenge for EFCE, but we must not leave this challenge off the list because it is too difficult.

I thank you for your support as I enter my second term as EFCE President. Now we must move from survey, to strategy, to delivery. I will work with the board to develop plans for real action, because when I stand before you at the next EFCE Forum, we must have something to show for the work that we are doing."

Progress will be reviewed at the next meeting of the EFCE Executive Board in Paris in March 2012. Professor Darton will report back at the next EFCE Forum, which convenes at the CHISA meeting in Prague during August 2012.