By Dr. Hélène Illaire
EFC Managing Officer

The European Federation of Corrosion (EFC) federates associations and companies with interests in corrosion, in Europe and beyond. Its aim is to advance the science of the corrosion and protection of materials by promoting cooperation in Europe and collaboration internationally. In January 2019, the EFC counted 33 member organisations (Member Societies and Affiliate Members), representing the corrosion interests of more than 25,000 engineers and scientists. The EFC is proud to present below a highlight of its activities during the year 2018, and will continue to promote the interests of its members in 2019 and beyond.

From January 1st, succeeding Prof. Damien FERON, Prof. Arjan MOL from Delft University of Technology is taking the Presidency of the Federation. The EFC team sincerely thank Prof. Damien FERON for his 2 years of fruitful and intensive work at the head of EFC, and warmly welcomes Prof. Arjan MOL in his mandate. We also welcome Dr. Jörg Vogelsang, from the company Sika Technology AG in Zürich, as the new EFC Vice-President.

The 2018 edition of EUROCORR, taking place in Cracow, was very successful. With more than 1400 delegates and 47 exhibitors, the congress continues the trend toward growth observed in recent years. Once again, participants appreciated especially the high quality of the scientific sessions, confirming EUROCORR as the first international corrosion congress for academic standard.

The EFC continues to expand its international cooperation. In March 2018, a MoU was signed between the EFC and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, as a first step towards the establishment of EFC activities in the Middle East. In September 2018, a MoU was signed with the Chinese Society for Corrosion and Protection (CSCP), formalising the willingness of EFC and CSCP to cooperate. The collaboration includes the promotion of academic visits, and in particular the CSCP supports the EUROCORR Young Scientist Grant with a donation and further direct support to students travelling between Europe and China.
The Young EFC is an active network of young researchers and engineers in the field of corrosion and protection of materials, launched in 2016. The Young EFC, in collaboration with the EFC Working Party 7 on Education, have initiated a Mentoring Program whose aim is to support students and young professionals in their career development. The Program was successfully launched during EUROCORR 2018.

EUROCORR 2017 and 2018 will lead us better taking into account their needs, related especially to an improved international visibility and more opportunities for business networking. Initial improvements were introduced in 2018, such as the display of the logos of Affiliate Members on the EFC webpage, and efforts will be pursued in the coming years with e.g. the development of a Loyalty Programme for EUROCORR Exhibitors.

In 2018, the EFC Newsletters have evolved toward a more professional and cost-effective production. The two electronic issues, sent in autumn and in spring, are now produced with professional software. The printed issue, distributed in September to all EUROCORR delegates, was produced by a professional publisher, resulting in improved layout and print quality. Also, corrosion-related companies were offered the possibility to publish advertisements in the printed issue, within limited space. These improvements were positively welcomed by EUROCORR delegates and will be renewed in 2019.

The EFC is aiming at improving the services offered to companies and at increasing their involvement in the Federation. The feedback collected from companies during EUROCORR 2017 and 2018 will lead to us better taking into account their needs, related especially to an improved international visibility and more opportunities for business networking. Initial improvements were introduced in 2018, such as the display of the logos of Affiliate Members on the EFC webpage, and efforts will be pursued in the coming years with e.g. the development of a Loyalty Programme for EUROCORR Exhibitors.

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