

Item 12.2: Revision of Bylaw-B4.1064 – Responsibilities of Division Committees

The Slovak National Committee for Chemistry has proposed an amendment to the Bylaws under the section describing the functions of the Division Committee. The proposed language is as follows:

B4.1064 to plan, and organize its own scientific meetings, as well as to approve the IUPAC sponsorship for scientific meetings organized by the adhering organizations. To take care for other activities which are deemed useful in furthering the objects of the Division or Section, especially to organize the project reviews and to advise the Bureau the approval of scientific projects.

In explanation, the Slovak National Committee states: “This means that the above matters are discussed and concluded by the Division Committee and not solely by the Division President.”

The current language of B.1064 is as follows:

B4.1064 to plan and organize scientific meetings and other activities that are deemed useful in furthering the objects of the Division or Section;

Comments and Recommendations:

The Secretary General has noted several technical problems with the proposed Bylaw, as follows:

1. A Division does not *approve* sponsorship. At present, the Secretariat makes the decision on the basis of *recommendations* from relevant Division Presidents. In many instances, a request for sponsorship is sent to several Division Presidents.
2. The last phrase “especially to organize the project reviews and to advise the Bureau the approval of scientific projects” represents a misunderstanding of the responsibility of the Division Committee to review, approve, and decide on funding for projects, as well as to oversee the conduct of projects. Putting only one portion of this process [review] into a Bylaw is confusing and unnecessary. In addition, the Division Committee does not inform the Bureau of approval of each project; summary data on projects are provided to the Bureau by the Secretariat.

The Executive Committee [March 2001] discussed the proposed amendment and concluded that the procedures by which a Division arrives at recommendations and decisions are a Divisional matter and not something that should be included in the Bylaws. The EC will propose that the Bureau recommend against approval of the amendment. The Secretary General pointed out that the recently formed *ad hoc* Conference Policy Development Committee will consider IUPAC-wide policy for sponsorship of conferences, along with a number of other matters.

If the Bureau makes a recommendation for or against the amendment, that information will be provided to the Council in Brisbane.

A copy of the letter to the Bureau from the Slovak National Committee follows.

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4 September, 2000

Letter to Bureau of IUPAC

Proposal for IUPAC Bylaws Modification

Dear sirs:

During its meeting this last May, the Slovak National Committee of Chemistry for IUPAC (SNCC) again discussed the case of the 13th International Bratislava Conference on Polymers "*Separation and Characterization of Macromolecules*" which was organized in Bratislava/Slovakia by the Slovak Chemical Society and Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in July 1999. In the course of the Conference, the Meeting of IUPAC Working Party IV. 2. 2 "*Molecular characterization of commercial polymers*" was to take place. The President of Division IV, turned down the application for the IUPAC sponsorship for the above Conference. He took this decision during meeting of Division IV at Gold Coast, Australia in July 1998 without discussing the matter within the Division IV and Commission IV.2 and without informing/consulting the Conference Chair.

In order to prevent such cases in future and also to strengthen the intrinsic democracy of IUPAC, the Slovak National Committee of Chemistry proposes modification of Bylaws so that the rejection of IUPAC sponsorship application will have to be discussed and agreed during the Division meeting.

We feel that similar amendments are very important for the future „project driven“ IUPAC system in which the discretion of Divisions will be strongly enhanced.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dušan Berek
Chair of SNCC