



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY



Slovenian Business & Research Association  
Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje

# ***Empowering Europe through Electrochemistry***

**23 October 2025 | 09:00 – 13:00**

***Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU  
Rue Joseph II 14, 1000 Brussels***

*Electrochemistry lies at the heart of Europe's green and digital transitions, enabling everything from advanced battery technologies and hydrogen fuel cells to CO<sub>2</sub> conversion and sustainable industrial processes. In this pivotal context, the event will bring together researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore how electrochemical innovation can support Europe's strategic autonomy, net-zero targets, and technological competitiveness. Organised by Slovenia's National Institute of Chemistry and the Brussels-based Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA), this high-level half-day conference at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU will highlight cutting-edge European initiatives, regional participation in Horizon Europe, and the widening opportunities to build a strong, interconnected electrochemistry ecosystem across Europe. With keynote insights, policy discussion, and a moderated expert panel, the event offers a unique opportunity to align science, funding, and policy toward a sustainable electrochemical future.*

## **Programme**

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**09:00 – 09:30**   *Registration of participants*

**09:30 – 09:40**   **Welcome and Opening remarks**

- **Asst. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – President of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association
- **Prof. Dr. Gregor Anderluh** – Director, the National Institute of Chemistry

**09:40 – 09:55    Keynote Presentation: Advances in Electrochemical Energy Storage and Conversion / Center of Excellence For Electrochemical Science (CELSI) presentation**

- **Dr. Dušan Strmčnik** – Senior Scientist, National Institute of Chemistry
- **Prof. Marc Koper** - Head of the group Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Leiden Institute of Chemistry
- **Prof. Karl Mayrhofer** – Director, Helmholtz Institute Erlangen-Nürnberg for Renewable Energy

**09:55 – 10:10    Teaming for Electrochemical Excellence: Building Innovation Capacity Across Europe**

- **TBD** – Widening Participation at the European Research Executive Agency (REA)

**10:10 – 10:25    Electrochemistry for Strategic Autonomy: Boosting Innovation and Startups in Europe's Green Tech Future**

- **Beatrice Coda** – Head of Unit for Clean Energy Transitions, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD)

**10:25 – 10:40    Electrochemistry at Scale: Industry's Role in Powering a Sustainable Europe**

- **Pieter van der Hoeven (TBC)** – Sector Group Manager & Managing Director APIC, European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)

**10:40 – 11:00    Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 11:40    Panel discussion: Bridging Science and Industry: Unlocking the Full Potential of Electrochemical Innovation**

- **Moderator:**
  - **Asst. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – President of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association
- **Speakers:**
  - **Fabrice Stassin** – Secretary General of the Batteries European Partnership Association (BEPA)
  - **Prof. Annick Hubin (TBC)** – Chair of Electrochemical and Surface Engineering, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
  - **Prof. Marc Koper** - Head of the group Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Leiden Institute of Chemistry
  - **Prof. Karl Mayrhofer** - Director, Helmholtz Institute Erlangen-Nürnberg for Renewable Energy
  - **Dr. Dušan Strmčnik** – Senior Scientist, National Institute of Chemistry

- **Prof. Dr. Robert Dominko** - Head of Laboratory for Modern Battery Systems, Head of Center for Development, Demonstration and Training for Carbon-Free Technologies, Head of Laboratory for Battery Development and Testing, National Institute of Chemistry
- **Prof. Patrik Johansson** - VR Distinguished Professor in Next Generation Batteries 2022-2031 and Director Battery 2030+ CSA, Uppsala University

**11:40 – 11:50    Q&A and discussion**

**11:50 – 12:00    Concluding remarks**

**12:00 – 13:00    Networking Luncheon**

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