



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 CO₂ 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

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 – 10:00 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

- 10:00 – 10:10 Advancing Low-Carbon Technologies: The DUBT Center for Development, Demonstration and Training**
- **Prof. Robert Dominko** – Head of DUBT: Center for Development, Demonstration and Training for Low-Carbon Technologies, National Institute of Chemistry

- 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 The role of European partnerships under Horizon Europe**
- **Fabrice Stassin** – Secretary General of the Batteries European Partnership Association (BEPA)

- 10:40 – 10:55 Contribution of the Widening Programme to Emerging Technologies**
- **Doru-Leonard Irimie** – Project Advisor, Unit C3-Widening Participation, European Research Executive Agency (REA)

10:55 – 11:15 Coffee Break

- 11:15 – 11:55 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:**
 - **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, Director of Battery 2030+, Uppsala University

11:55 – 12:10 Q&A and discussion

12:10 – 12:15 Concluding remarks

12:15 – 13:00 Networking Luncheon