

CELEBRATING  
**30**  
YEARS  
OF THE  
ACADEMIA  
EUROPAEA



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE

“The creation of the Academia Europaea was a concrete recognition by scientists of all disciplines that Europe is a natural scene where they have a role to play. Its success, attested by the high level events it organises and its role in gathering expertise to advise the European Commission, confirms the rightfulness of this vision.”

**Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon MAE**  
*President of the European Research Council*

“More than any other learned institution in our continent, Academia Europaea personifies the intimate link that exists between our contemporary understanding of science and Europe’s moral values: three scientific modes – axiomatic, empirical, and hermeneutic, but one common paradigm: science and scholarship at the highest level, beyond local boundaries.”

**Professor Antonio Loprieno MAE**  
*President of ALLEA (All European Academies)*

“On behalf of Cardiff University, I congratulate Academia Europaea on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As host of Academia Europaea’s Cardiff Knowledge Hub we benefit significantly from its work in promoting and creating pan-European scientific collaboration and infrastructure across all disciplines. We are also extremely lucky to have Professor Ole Petersen, Vice-President of Academia Europaea, as one of its leading advocates. In these turbulent and uncertain times it’s important that academic colleagues continue to come together to promote European research. Over the next few years, Academia Europaea will have a crucial role to play in helping the academic community navigate the new and uncharted European research waters. I wish everyone associated with Academia Europaea every success over the next 30 years.”

**Professor Colin Riordan**  
*President & Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University*

“On behalf of Euro-CASE, it is our great pleasure to congratulate Academia Europaea on its 30th anniversary. As a truly European institution, Academia Europaea represents a fundamental cornerstone for the modern Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission. For the years to come, we wish Academia Europaea the best possible development and we feel fortunate to be a partner in supporting the growth of Europe through providing evidence-based options for action.”

**Professor Reinhard F. Hüttl MAE**  
*President of Euro-CASE*

“I’m glad to have the opportunity to congratulate Academia Europaea on this anniversary. We live in times that are not easy for culture and science: there are many difficulties, new problems both in Italy and in the world. Academies must play a crucial role in analysing the causes of this situation and try to propose solutions.”

**Professor Giorgio Parisi MAE**  
*President of Accademia dei Lincei*

“There may not have been a more exciting time for the integration of the disciplines of science in society generally, and for the Academia to play its part as a united and independent voice for culture in Europe. Recognition of the Academia in providing advice to the Commission emphasises its value in this role and the establishment of the regional hubs has clearly facilitated the international coordination of its contributions.”

**Sir John Skehel MAE FRS**  
*Vice-President of the Royal Society*

# 30 INSPIRATIONAL YEARS

2018 marks 30 years of the Academia Europaea. On 24<sup>th</sup> September, many of our members gathered at the Royal Society in London, at an event organised by our Vice-President and Founding Member Ole Petersen, to mark this very special occasion. The Royal Society played an important role in the foundation of Academia Europaea, as Sir Arnold Burgen, our Founding President, highlighted in his speech at the event. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President of the Royal Society, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, and Vice-President Sir John Skehel for their generous support for our celebratory event.

Today, Academia Europaea has almost 4000 members, eminent scientists and scholars from a wide variety of disciplines and cultures, including more than 70 Nobel laureates. In addition to our headquarters in London, we have a network of Hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Cardiff and Wrocław, as well as an information centre in Graz.

We will continue to devote our best efforts to promote a wide understanding of the benefits of knowledge and learning, as well as highlighting scientific and scholarly issues that affect society. As one of the 5 executive members of SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), we are pleased to be part of the European Commission’s Scientific Advice Mechanism.

As this commemorative brochure illustrates, we have a fascinating history and many highlights of which we can be immensely proud. Making a difference depends on people, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many colleagues who have contributed to make our Academy the success it is today.

**Professor Sierd Cloetingh**  
*President of Academia Europaea*





# A HISTORY OF ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

## 1987

■ After several years of informal meetings and soundings, based on an initiative taken by the Royal Society (UK), a group of European scientists and scholars (A. Burgen [UK], J. Canovas [Spain], H. Curien [France], M. Cappelletti [Italy], D. Magnusson [Sweden], B. Flowers [UK], K. Glamann [Denmark], T. Hagerstrand [Sweden], R. van Lieshout [Netherlands], R. Mayntz [Germany], E. Seibold [Germany] and J. Tits [France]) met in London in December and reached agreement on the general structure of a broadly-based European Academy, comprising both the sciences and the humanities. The group also agreed that the academy would be known as 'Academia Europaea' (AE).

## 1988

■ The above-mentioned group met again in March and decided who should be invited to be Foundation Members. They also made arrangements for a Foundation Meeting, which was held at Pembroke and Downing Colleges, Cambridge on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, attended by 52 Foundation Members. One of the important decisions, made at the Foundation Meeting, was that membership would not be restricted to countries of Western Europe, but that Europe would be regarded as the geographic entity, i.e. from the Atlantic to the Urals. The meeting elected the first officers of the Academia: Arnold Burgen became President and Ruurd van Lieshout and David Magnusson Vice-Presidents. All this happened on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1988, which is therefore the formal date of the foundation of the Academy. On that same day, the meeting was addressed by Hubert Curien, the French Minister for Research and Technology, who provided his strong support for Academia Europaea. The Foundation Members dined in the Hall of Pembroke College and after dinner heard a recital of music by Ravel and Beethoven by Quatuor Parisii. Academia Europaea was established as a charitable trust in the UK, with its office in London. Dr Craig Sinclair became the first Executive Secretary.



Foundation Members in Cambridge on 5th September 1988. (Front row: Sir Arnold Burgen, 10th from right, Hubert Curien, 8th from right and Marie-Lise Chanin, 7th from right. Middle row: Ole Petersen far right)

# 30 YEARS

## 1989

■ The first Annual Meeting was held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London in June. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office gave a reception at Durbar House, where members were received by the Minister of State, Lord Glenarthur. At this time there were already more than 600 members.

## 1992

■ At the fourth Annual Meeting in Budapest, the first Erasmus Medal was awarded to János Kornai. Since then, the Erasmus Medal Lecture has been Academia Europaea's annual highlight. The basis of the award is 'lifetime scholarly excellence, achievement and impact'. Later recipients include the Nobel laureates Paul Crutzen (Gent 1997), Harold Kroto (Lisbon 2002), Bert Sakmann (Budapest 2006) and Lord Martin Rees (Cardiff 2016).



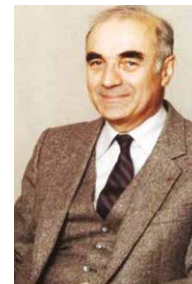
## 1993

■ The first issue of Academia Europaea's *European Review* was published in January (by Wiley and since 1998 by Cambridge University Press). The ER is an international quarterly, peer-reviewed journal. The first editors were Arnold Burgen and Henk Wesseling. ■ The Academia organised a highly-valued Russian Prize scheme giving awards to young scientists and scholars from the republics of the former Soviet Union. The scheme has helped to promote further support of young scholars within these countries. Professor Vladimir Skulachev played a key role in organising this scheme.



## 1994

■ Hubert Curien, who was Minister of Research and Technology of the Republic of France from 1984-1986 and from 1988-1993, became our second President (1994-1997).



## 1995

■ Mr Peter Colyer was appointed as the second Executive Secretary.

## 1997

■ The Academia's first three Gold Medals (awarded for the support of European science through inspiration, management expertise or financial means) were presented to the Royal Society, Professor Heinz Riesenhuber (German Science Minister in Helmut Kohl's government from 1982-1993) and Dr George Soros. ■ Stig Strömholm, who was Rector Magnificus (President, Vice-Chancellor) of Uppsala University (the oldest University in the Nordic countries) from 1989-1997, became our third President (1997-2002).



## 1999

■ The Burgen Scholarships were established at the Copenhagen Annual Conference, in honour of our Founding President, Sir Arnold Burgen. The Burgen Scholarships provide recognition to younger European scholars, at post-doctoral level, who are emerging talents and possible potential future leaders in their fields.

## 2001

■ Dr David Coates was appointed as the third Executive Secretary.

## 2002

■ Professor Jürgen Mittelstraß (Member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences) became our fourth President (2002-2008).



## 2004

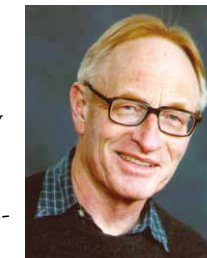
■ The Expert Group HERCULES (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) was established. Its mission was to assist and advise the AE Council on issues relevant to research and policy in European institutions of higher education and learning.



President Stig Strömholm with the AE Council (2001). (Front row, left to right: Jerzy Haber, Marie-Lise Chanin, Stig Strömholm and Vice-President Ian Butterworth. Behind the President: Ole Petersen. Behind the Vice-President: Sir Arnold Burgen). Sierd Cloetingh was a member of Council, but not present at this meeting.

## 2008

■ Professor Lars Walløe (former President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters) became our fifth President (2008-2014).



## 2010

■ The Graz Information Centre was founded. The establishment of the Centre was made possible by a joint agreement between Academia Europaea and Graz University of Technology. ■ The AE was reconstituted as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

## 2011

■ Academia Europaea opened its first regional knowledge hub in Wroclaw, in co-operation with the City of Wroclaw and its Mayor, Rafal Dutkiewics.



## 2012

■ The Young Academy of Europe was established as an independent association of young scientists (initially, all ERC grant holders). The YAE is formally affiliated with the Academia Europaea, with mutual representations at Board meetings.





# 2013

■ The Barcelona Knowledge Hub was established through a joint agreement between the Academia Europaea and three partners in Catalonia: the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, Barcelona City Council, and the Fundació Interbancaria “la Caixa”. The Hub is located at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). Professor Andreu Mas-Colell MAE, who was Minister of Economy and Knowledge in the Catalanian Government from 2010-2016 and gave the Erasmus Lecture at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Budapest, played a crucial role in the establishment of the Barcelona hub.

■ The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting was held in Wrocław, with plenary lectures from the Nobel laureates Robert Huber and Bert Sakmann.



# 30 YEARS

## 2015

■ The Hubert Curien Fund was set up in honour of the second President of the Academia Europaea. It provides small grants to members for international, interdisciplinary and transboundary activities.



■ Our headquarters in London moved to its present location at the University of London's Senate House.



# 2014

■ Professor Sierd Cloetingh (at that time Vice-President of the European Research Council and later President of COST) became our sixth President. He announced in his 2014 Christmas newsletter to the membership that, following the recommendations from a Working Group he had appointed (Anne Buttimer, Donald Dingwell, Svend Erik Larsen, Ole Petersen [Chair] and Gispert Wüstholtz with David Coates as secretary), the Board had decided on a major restructuring of the Academy. Up to that point in time, AE had 20 sections covering the sciences and humanities. Each of the 20 sections made recommendations in their fields about elections to membership of the Academy, which went to the Nominations Committee. This committee then decided on and presented the final selection of candidates to Council for approval. The Working Group recommended abolishing the Nominations Committee and grouping the sections into 4 classes, Humanities and Arts, Social and Related Sciences, Exact Sciences and Life Sciences. Each Class would have a Class Committee, consisting of its Section Chairs and would be chaired by a Vice-President. The inaugural Class Chairs were Svend Erik Larsen, Anne Buttimer (1938-2017), Donald Dingwell and Ole Petersen. The decisions concerning election to membership were essentially devolved to the 4 classes, who would present their election lists to the Board and Council for approval. This remains the current structure of the Academia.

■ The Bergen Knowledge Hub was established through a joint agreement between the Academia Europaea and four regional partners: Hordaland County Council, City of Bergen, University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics.



# 2016

■ The Adam Kondorosi Prize was awarded for the first time to Simona Radutoiu of Aarhus University, Denmark. The award, named in honour of the eminent plant scientist Adam Kondorosi, provides recognition to a young emerging scholar in the field of plant biology, especially nitrogen fixation biology and microbiology. In alternate years there is a senior prize, awarded to an outstanding, established researcher in plant molecular sciences.



Panel discussion at AE's 2016 Annual Meeting in Cardiff. (From left: Sierd Cloetingh, Colin Riordan, Sir John Skehel, Günter Stock and Sir Mark Walport)

■ Following a Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, signed by Sierd Cloetingh and Vice-Chancellor Colin Riordan in 2015, the Cardiff Knowledge Hub opened in Cardiff. The official launch took place during the 2016 Annual Meeting in Cardiff.

■ Academia Europaea became part of the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, within the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The Cardiff Hub became the major organiser of the Academy's work for SAPEA.

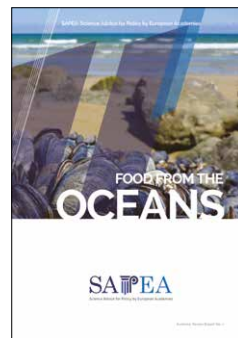


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 737432.



# 2017

■ The very first SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Food from the Oceans*, which was led by Academia Europaea via the Cardiff Hub, was published at the end of the year. The substantial report (154 pages) was formally handed over to the European Commission, together with the Scientific Opinion produced, on the basis of the SAPEA report, by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Ole Petersen represented SAPEA in the Commission's Co-ordination Group and Cardiff Hub Manager Louise Edwards chaired the SAPEA Staff Team.



A number of public outreach events disseminating information about the report and allowing discussion of its content were held in a number of European locations, including Cardiff, Bergen, Hamburg and Sofia.

Handover of the *Food from the Oceans* report to Commissioners Vella and Moedas (Vella front row, 3rd from left, Moedas front row, second from right). The Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, Rolf-Dieter Heuer MAE, is seen standing between the two Commissioners. The two SAPEA Working Group Chairs selected by AE were Dag Aksnes MAE (back row, second from left) and Poul Holm MAE (front row, far left). The SAPEA Board Chair, Günter Stock MAE, is far right. Sierd Cloetingh is in the back row (far right).



# 2018

■ Academia Europaea becomes the Lead Academy for the SAPEA project *Making sense of science under conditions of complexity and uncertainty*. Pearl Dykstra MAE is the lead for the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and Ole Petersen is the lead for SAPEA and Academia Europaea. Louise Edwards is Chair of the SAPEA Staff Team. Professor Ortwin Renn is Chair of the Working Group. Working Group Meetings are held in Berlin in September, October and December.



Pearl Dykstra and Ole Petersen discussing SAPEA evidence review reports at an event in Sofia in 2018

■ Academia Europaea celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a special event held at the Royal Society in London in September and then again at its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Barcelona in November. Two Gold Medals are presented: in London to Robert-Jan Smits (EC Open Access Envoy and former Director-General of the Research & Innovation Directorate) and in Barcelona to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, represented by its President Jörg Hacker MAE. At the London meeting the first outreach activity takes place for the SAPEA project *Making sense of science*, with a panel including Ortwin Renn, Nicole Grobert MAE (Member of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors) and Johannes Klumpers (Head of the SAM Unit in Brussels), chaired by Sierd Cloetingh.

■ Sierd Cloetingh becomes Chair of the SAPEA Board from 1<sup>st</sup> December.



# 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY, LONDON  
24TH SEPTEMBER 2018



**Many of our speakers congratulating AE Gold Medal winner, Robert-Jan Smits**  
(Left to right: Lars Walløe [AE's 5th President], Sir Arnold Burgen [AE's Founding President], Eva Kondorosi MAE [Vice-President, European Research Council], Nicole Grobert MAE [Member of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors], David Coates [AE Executive Secretary], Robert-Jan Smits [AE Gold Medal winner], Ortwinn Renn [Chair of the SAPEA Working Group on *Making sense of science*], Johannes Klumpers [Head of the European Commission's SAM Unit], Richard Catlow MAE [Vice-President, Royal Society], Ole Petersen [AE Vice-President and Academic Director of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub], Jürgen Mittelstraß [AE's 4th President] and Sierd Cloetingh [AE's current President])



**Academia Europaea's Presidents, past and present**  
(Left to right: Sir Arnold Burgen [Founding President], Lars Walløe [AE's 5th President], Sierd Cloetingh [Current President] and Jürgen Mittelstraß [AE's 4th President])



**Sir Venki Ramakrishnan**  
(President of the Royal Society) welcoming members of Academia Europaea to the Royal Society



**Ole Petersen introducing Sir Arnold Burgen**



**Sierd Cloetingh awarding AE's Gold Medal to Robert-Jan Smits**  
(the European Commission's Open Access Envoy and formerly Director-General of the Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate)



Members of Academia Europaea and guests in the Kohn Centre



Tullio Pozzan MAE presenting his research on the regulation of mitochondrial function



The Cardiff Hub team (Left to right: Louise Edwards [Hub Manager], Esther Dorado Ladera [Executive Officer] and Juliet Davies [Executive Officer]) meeting Carl Petersen MAE



Members of the *Making sense of science* panel (Left to right: Ortwin Renn [Chair of the SAPEA Working Group on *Making sense of science*], Nicole Grobert MAE [Member of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors], Richard Catlow MAE [Vice-President, Royal Society])



Sir John Skehel MAE chairs the session *30 years of scientific developments*



Our members networking over coffee in the Marble Hall





THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE