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Editorial

Collection of papers from the 8th EUFOAM conference and the meetings of COST Actions D43 and P21, Borovets, Bulgaria, 13–16 July 2010

The Eufoam'2010 conference took place in the resort Borovets in Rila Mountain, Bulgaria, 13–16 July 2010. This is the 8th conference of the Eufoam series, initiated 16 years ago by Prof. Denis Weaire, who organized the first conference on Foam Science in Renvyle, Ireland (27–29 March, 1994). The subsequent conferences were in Arcachon, France (28 May–2 June, 1996), Delft, Netherlands (4–8 June 2000), Manchester, UK (7–10 July, 2002), Marne-la-Vallée, France (5–8 July 2004), Potsdam-Golm, Germany (2–6 July 2006) and Noordwijk, Netherlands (8–10 July 2008). In all these years, the major aim of the conferences was to gather the active researchers in the area of foams and foam-related systems (cellular structures, fluid interfaces, thin films, and surfactants) and to make a link between the fundamental and applied studies in this area.

Eufoam'2010 was organized by the Department of Chemical Engineering, Sofia University, Bulgaria. For the first time, this conference was organized in Eastern and Central Europe. It was a time for such a shift in location, not only because the difficult times after the fall of Berlin wall are already in the past, but also because the gap between the different scientific schools on the West and in the East, which was so obvious even 10 years ago, has now almost disappeared. The European researchers in this field are uniting in a bigger community.

The Eufoam'2010 conference was combined with two parallel events on related topics: Thematic Symposium “Colloidal Dispersions in Nanoscience” of COST Action D43 *Colloid and Interface Science for Nanotechnology*, as well as the Training School and Final Meeting of COST Action P21 *Physics of Droplets*. (COST is the European framework for Cooperation in Science and Technology.) The joint morning sessions with plenary and invited lecturers were followed by parallel sessions of these three events. The poster sessions were common for all participants. This combination of meetings boosted the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas between the researchers and helped for a wider dissemination of their results. The present special issue contains a part of the presented papers, which are organized in several sections reflecting the conference topics.

The conference venue was the congress center at Hotel Samokov (Fig. 1) in Borovets, at 1400 m above the sea level. 212 participants from 25 countries (including Australia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Palestine and the USA) attended the meeting (Fig. 2). The plenary speakers were:

François Graner, Institute Curie, Paris, France;

Alex Lips, Unilever R&D, Port Sunlight, UK;



Fig. 1. The conference venue in Borovets.

Orlin Velez, North Carolina State Univ., USA.

Invited lectures were delivered by: Isabelle Cantat (University of Rennes, France); Annie Colin (University of Bordeaux I, France); Michael Dennin (University of California, Irvine, USA); Benjamin Dollet (University of Rennes, France); Mohan Edirisinghe (University College London, UK); Tommy Horozov (University of Hull, UK); Stefan Hutzler (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland); Regine von Klitzing (Technical University, Berlin, Germany); Rumen Krastev (University of Tübingen, Germany); Michiel T. Kreutzer (Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands); Stephen Neethling (Imperial College, London, UK); Olivier Pitois (University Paris-Est, France); Lok Kumar Shrestha (NIMS, Japan) and Simeon Stoyanov (Unilever, Vlaardingen, The Netherlands).

The large number of participants, the respected speakers from the entire spectrum of the foam research area and related fields of colloid science, and the vivid discussions in all sessions, contributed for the implementation of an interesting and useful meeting.

Finally, the editors of this special issue and meeting organizers would like to express their deep gratitude to all institutions and individuals that contributed to the success of the conference, viz.:



Fig. 2. Eufoam'2010: (a) a part of the participants; (b) the best-poster awards.

The members of the International Scientific Committee, who selected the presentations and consulted the conference organization.

COST Action P21 for financially supporting all participants in the meeting of this action and for providing bursaries to students who took part in the training school.

COST Action D43 for the financial support for the participants in the D43 symposium.

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All people from the organizing committee, including staff members and students from the Faculty of Chemistry, Sofia University,

who devoted much time and efforts for the successful organization of the conference.

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