

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Prague to Celebrate 70th Anniversary of Winning Nobel Prize by Hosting Prestigious World Chemical Congress

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Prague – In 2029, it will be exactly 70 years since the first Nobel Prize was awarded to what was then Czechoslovakia. Professor Jaroslav Heyrovský received the award in 1959 for his discovery of polarography, a chemical method used to analyse solutions. Prague will symbolically celebrate this important anniversary by organizing the World Chemical Congress of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), which will take place in the Czech capital in 2029.**

Prague won the opportunity to host the prestigious international event, which is, every two years, attended by several thousand experts in the field of chemistry. Its importance is accentuated by the meeting of the IUPAC General Assembly and the IUPAC Council as the highest body of the Union. In the Hague, the Netherlands, representatives of the Czech and Slovak Chemical Society and the Prague Convention Bureau, the umbrella organization for the Prague meetings industry, presented the proposal that received the strongest support in a secret ballot of delegates of all national organizations of IUPAC member states. *"We ran for the World Chemical Congress two years ago already, unfortunately unsuccessfully. I am very pleased that we successfully presented the winning proposal this year, beating the competing destinations, which were the Asian cities of Chengdu and Taipei, and Düsseldorf in Germany. I believe that in 2029 we will present an interesting congress program, the main topic of which should be "Frontiers in Chemistry: For the Harmony of Civilization with Nature", and which will build on the long and famous scientific research tradition of Czech and Slovak chemistry,"* says prof. Dr. RNDr. Pavel Matějka, Chairman of the congress and Rector of the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague.

*"The main topic and title of the congress point to the fact that today's civilization cannot exist without the products of chemical production. However, for the sake of sustainability, it is necessary to diminish the negative effects that production and its outputs have on nature and on the natural processes,"* adds prof. Jiří Vohlídal from Charles University, currently the Chairman of the Czech Chemical Society, adding: *"In addition to this focus, the proposal includes a special symposium on electrochemistry to celebrate symbolically the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of prof. Jaroslav Heyrovský's Nobel Prize as part of the congress."*

However, the Prague edition of the congress, which will take place at the Prague Congress Centre, will not only be exceptional for its connection to important personalities of Czech science. For the first time in the history of this event, the winning proposal for organizing the congress was submitted jointly by two national chemical societies – the Czech and the Slovak. *"The joint candidacy of the Czech and Slovak Chemical Societies was one of the strengths of the proposal. This uniqueness resulted from the common history and tradition of chemistry in the once unified country. Cooperation between the two countries has been maintained to this day, at various levels, from informal collaboration and national support of joint projects to regular joint conferences in individual fields of chemistry, through organizing umbrella chemistry congresses and, last but not least, organizing such important events as the International Chemistry Olympiad. That is why I am extremely pleased that thanks to winning this prestigious congress, we have the opportunity to jointly present the strong position of chemistry in our countries,"* adds prof. Igor Lacík from the Institute of Polymers of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Vice-Chairman

of the Congress and representative of the Slovak Chemical Society. Professor Lacík has been engaged at IUPAC for a long time and will be President of the Union's Polymer Division from 2024 to 2027, and a member of the IUPAC Scientific Council between 2024 and 2025.

The organization of this congress will bring the Czech and the international chemical professional public the opportunity to present their recent discoveries, but also to discuss the latest trends in the field. This way, the event will contribute to the further development of chemical research in our country, the results of which will subsequently benefit the public. *"At the same time, chemical processes are one of the strategic fields that the City of Prague focuses on in its Regional Innovation Strategy – RIS 3. It identifies sectors in which Prague has a comparative advantage over other destinations and in which it produces results with high added value. Obtaining this congress means not only an immediate economic benefit for Prague in the form of the stay of 4,000 delegates for the entire week of the congress, but especially an influx of global know-how in the field, which in the long term will help to the strategic direction and future development of the metropolis. All this contributes to the internationalization of Czech and Slovak science and the application of research results in practice, which subsequently benefits the general public,"* adds Ing. Michaela Smetanová, Senior Manager - Business Events at Prague Convention Bureau, who participated in presenting the congress offer of Prague and the overall implementation and organizational aspects of the proposal as part of the candidacy.

The candidacy for the World Chemical Congress was carried out with the support of the City of Prague, the CzechTourism / Czech Convention Bureau and C-IN, which, among other things, created a video clip for the candidacy inviting world personalities of chemistry to Prague for the World Chemical Congress in 2029.

### **About the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)**

*IUPAC is a global organization of academic and industrial chemists founded in 1919 that provides scientific expertise and tools to apply and communicate expertise in chemistry effectively. It fulfils its mission by supporting sustainable development and education in chemistry, by means of sharing scientific information and forming a common language of chemists through recommendations in the field of chemical terminology.*

<https://iupac.org/>

### **About Prague Convention Bureau**

*Prague Convention Bureau (PCB) is a non-profit organization established in 2008. The company acts as an official representative of the Prague congress tourism and promotes the city as a one of the European leading congress destinations. Together with Czech tourism bodies, partners and members the PCB offers effective assistance in organizing conferences, meetings, seminars, exhibitions and incentive events in Prague.*

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