

We in ESIS and in the Italian Group on Fracture will greatly miss our friend Wolfgang Dietzel, who was very active in the Association for more than 30 years. From 1991 to 2010, Wolfgang was the chairman of Technical Committee TC10 on "Environmentally Assisted Cracking", and I had the opportunity of being the co-chairman, starting in 1996. We had a most enjoyable time together in TC10, where - after a while - a Subcommittee on "Hydrogen Embrittlement" was created with the cooperation of Prof. Oleksandr Andreykiv of the Proton R&D Centre in the Ukraine, and Professor Hryhorii Nykyforchyn from the Karpenko Physico-Mechanical Institute.



Wolfgang was mostly a quiet type of person, but he turned out to be very good in organizing many activities and programmes, and in creating a network of friendship between the participants. I remember with great pleasure the European project "Harmonisation of Accelerated Stress Corrosion Testing (HAST)", where Wolfgang put together a group of five laboratories from Western and Eastern Europe. The objective of the project was to assess and develop the new accelerated method for environmentally assisted cracking (EAC) – Rising Displacement Test (RDT). The method was tested by 25 European laboratories in a European round robin project, which took place in 1995 – 1999

and led to the introduction of a new ISO standard on accelerated SCC testing. TC 10 and its Subcommittee jointly organised a number of very successful and fruitful workshops up to 2014: here is a picture taken in the Research Centre of Venezia Tecnologie, now Eni Progetti. We were much younger then ... and we look very pleased with the success of our meeting, in October 2004.

Of course Wolfgang had many other activities in which I did not participate. He organized many meetings and conferences, not only with ESIS. At the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht he was

responsible for some important projects, and he kept working on these also after his retirement.

He retired in 2012 and was honoured by a workshop in Geesthacht, where colleagues discussed the most important achievements of his career. The pictures with Wolfgang and his wife Sabine are from this event.

I like to remember also that he very much loved animals – especially birds – and Nature. He cancelled a trip to



China when he saw on TV the mistreatment given to birds affected by the chicken flu! He shared his love with Sabine, and from the start of his illness, we were in touch with letters where I described the life on the farm where my daughter keeps chickens, geese and a pair of horses. Was this helpful during his difficult illness? We really cannot know, but we hope that now everything is over, and Wolfgang can be at rest. We shall not forget him.