

## Supporting Information for

# Spectrally Undiscerned Isomers Might Lead to Erroneous Determination of Water Exchange Rates of paraCEST Eu(III) Agents

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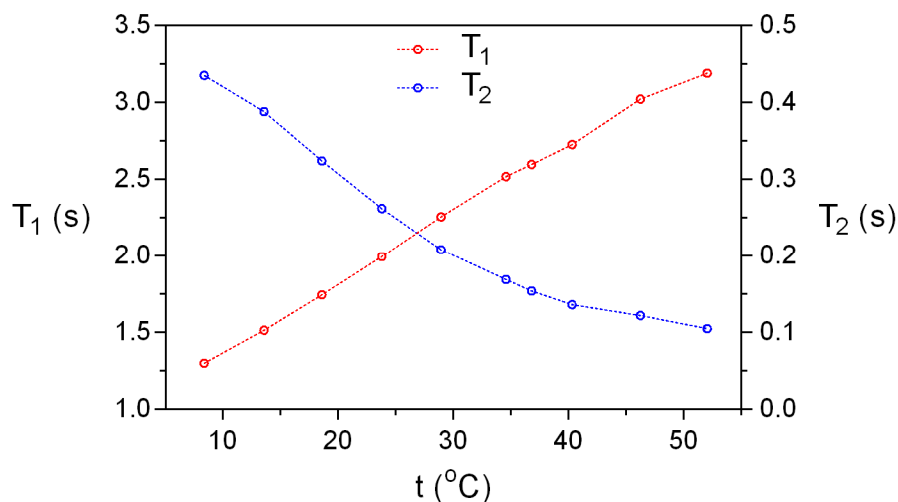
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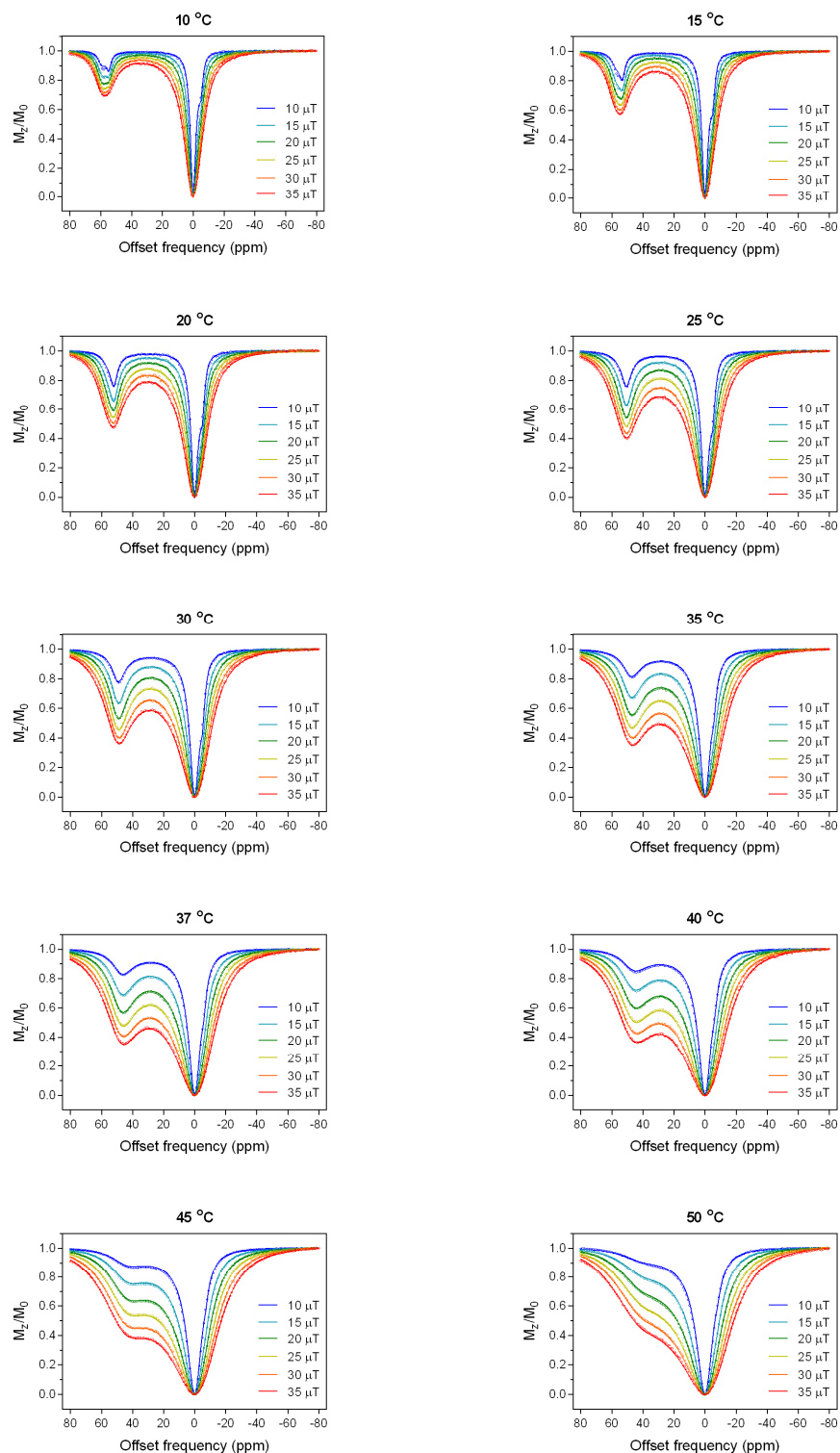
– T <sub>1</sub> and T <sub>2</sub> relaxation times for <b>EuL</b> <sup>1</sup> at different temperatures .....	S2
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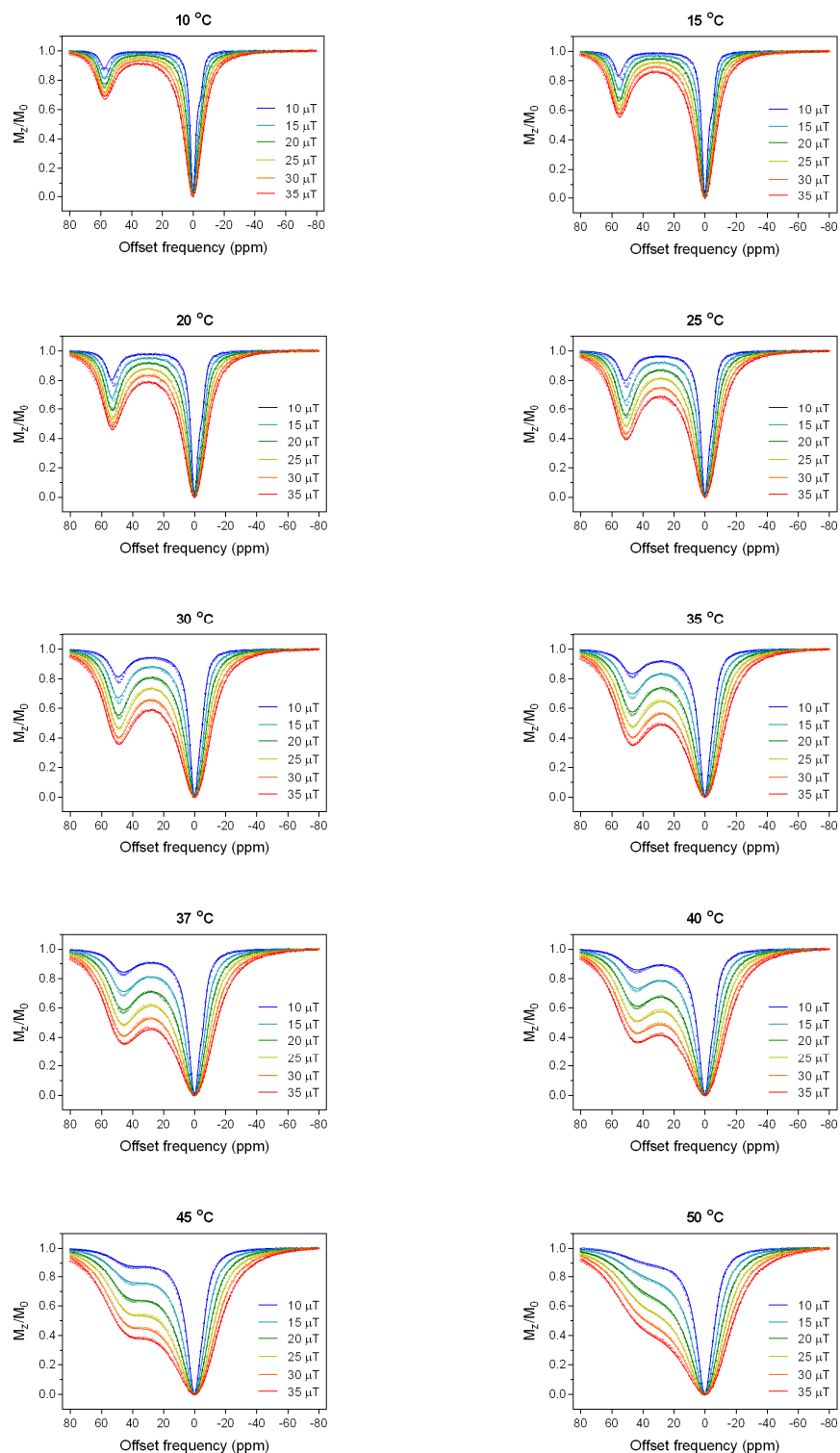
**Figure S1.** Development of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation times for **EuL<sup>1</sup>** (15 mM) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v) at pH 7 and 7 T magnetic field strength as a function of temperature.

**Table S1.** Exchange rate values (in Hz) obtained for **EuL<sup>1</sup>** (15 mM) and **EuL<sup>3</sup>** (10 mM) using different qCEST methods: BM equation with three or four exchanging pools, Omega plots or QUESP.

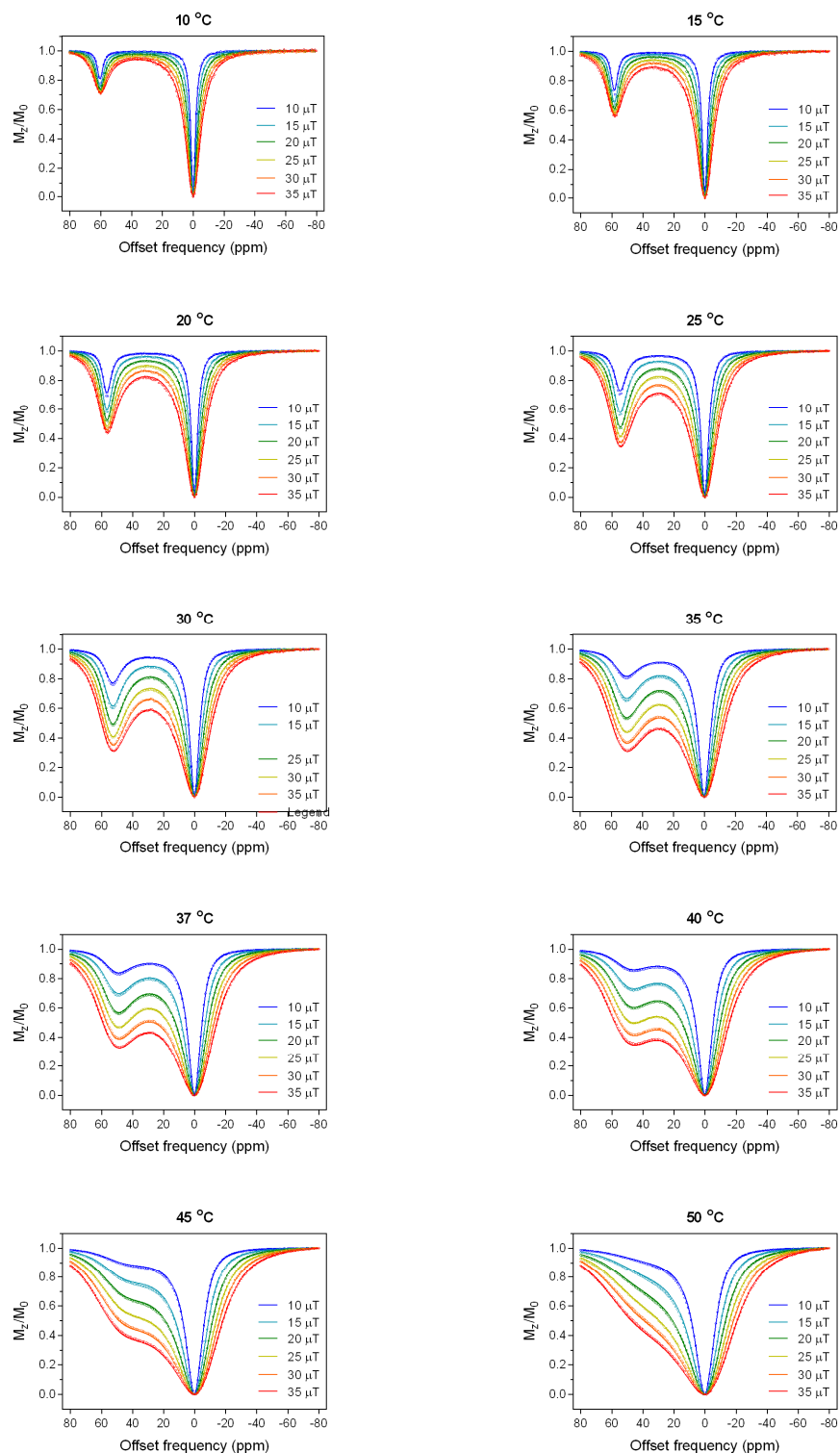
	t (°C)	BM 4-pool		BM 3-pool	Omega plots	QUESP
		Isomer A	Isomer B			
<b>EuL<sup>1</sup></b>	10	1197 ± 590	4715 ± 340	5163 ± 320	3540 ± 641	3993 ± 896
	15	1813 ± 427	6511 ± 417	5717 ± 254	3823 ± 680	4188 ± 954
	20	3287 ± 418	9541 ± 1063	6630 ± 237	4840 ± 536	5129 ± 683
	25	4983 ± 421	14449 ± 1909	8604 ± 229	6209 ± 488	6277 ± 594
	30	7781 ± 463	27190 ± 4678	11437 ± 279	8273 ± 623	8031 ± 694
	35	11437 ± 744	41403 ± 7044	15430 ± 326	11027 ± 800	9538 ± 977
	37	13010 ± 979	42653 ± 7605	17555 ± 372	12808 ± 1008	10238 ± 444
	40	16975 ± 1455	59939 ± 13429	21195 ± 421	14412 ± 1999	11286 ± 1167
	45	22214 ± 3938	51018 ± 14958	29325 ± 592	17439 ± 1664	11774 ± 1031
	50	16562 ± 11701	44590 ± 4175	40466 ± 1061	22484 ± 3014	10939 ± 843
<b>EuL<sup>3</sup></b>	10	-	-	2245 ± 194	1894 ± 233	1920 ± 324
	15	-	-	3038 ± 127	2712 ± 155	2702 ± 168
	20	-	-	4427 ± 116	4069 ± 126	4056 ± 168
	25	-	-	6953 ± 119	6172 ± 67	5956 ± 81
	30	-	-	10774 ± 167	9740 ± 397	8604 ± 290
	35	-	-	16586 ± 248	13810 ± 1595	10986 ± 679
	37	-	-	19438 ± 284	16694 ± 3138	11661 ± 610
	40	-	-	25284 ± 388	21410 ± 3408	12972 ± 319
	45	-	-	37808 ± 871	32542 ± 23405	13002 ± 883
	50	-	-	55497 ± 2341	38639 ± 33031	12618 ± 1480



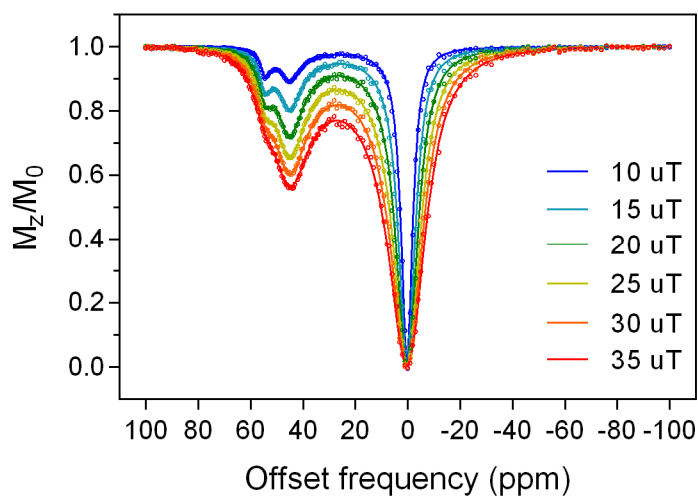
**Figure S2.** Z-spectra of  $\text{EuL}^1$  (15 mM) at variable temperatures,  $B_1$  fields and irradiation time of 10 s. The points represent obtained experimental values while lines represent values obtained from fits according to the BM equation with four exchanging pools.



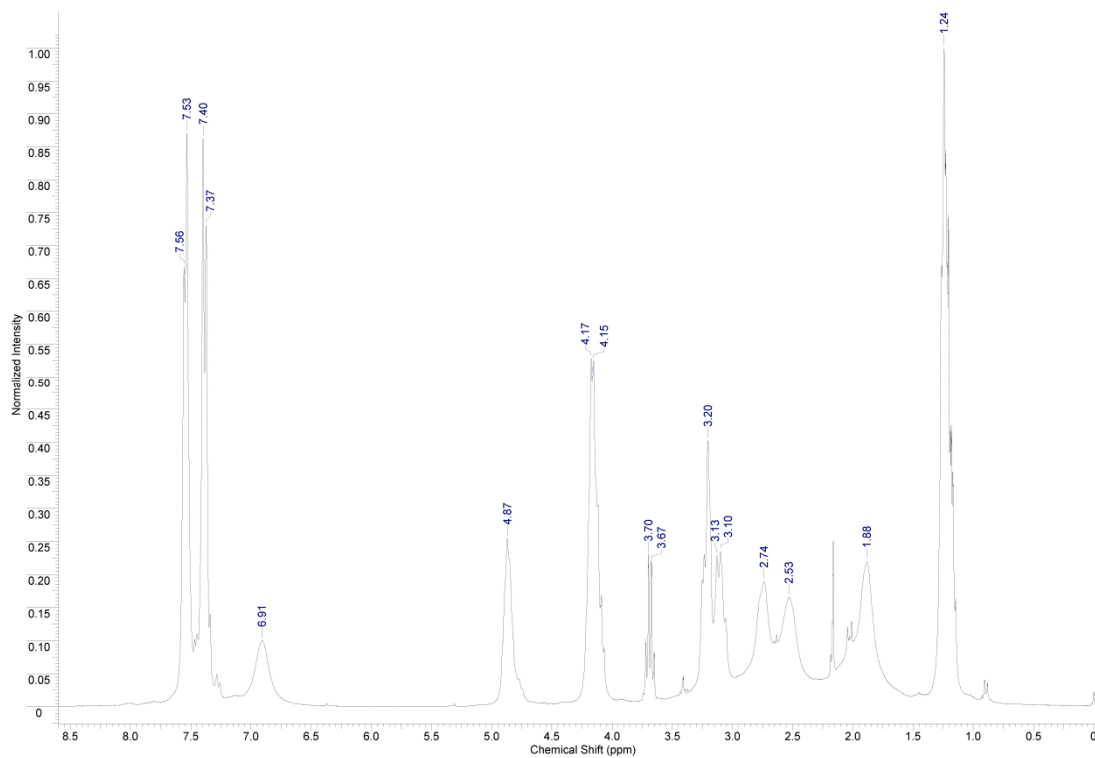
**Figure S3.** Z-spectra of **EuL<sup>1</sup>** (15 mM) at variable temperatures,  $B_1$  fields and irradiation time of 10 s. The points represent obtained experimental values while lines represent values obtained from fits according to the BM equation with three exchanging pools.



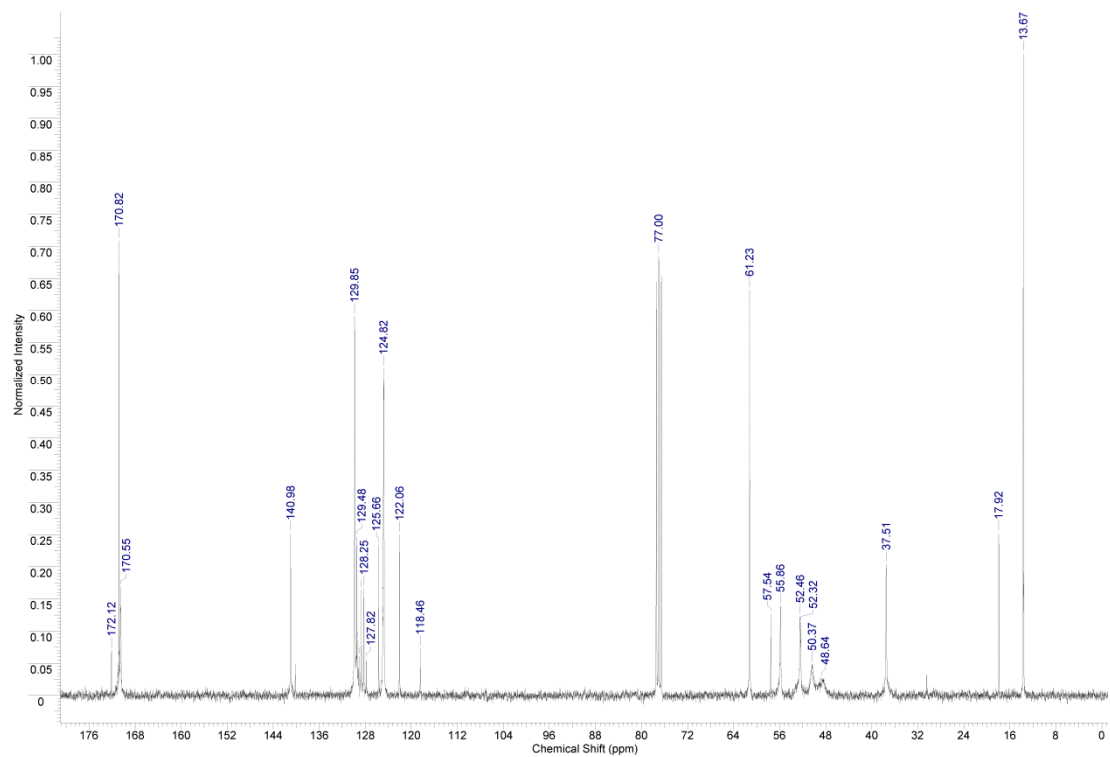
**Figure S4.** Z-spectra of  $\text{EuL}^3$  (10 mM) at variable temperatures,  $B_1$  fields and irradiation time of 10 s. The points represent obtained experimental values while lines represent values obtained from fits according to the BM equation with three exchanging pools.



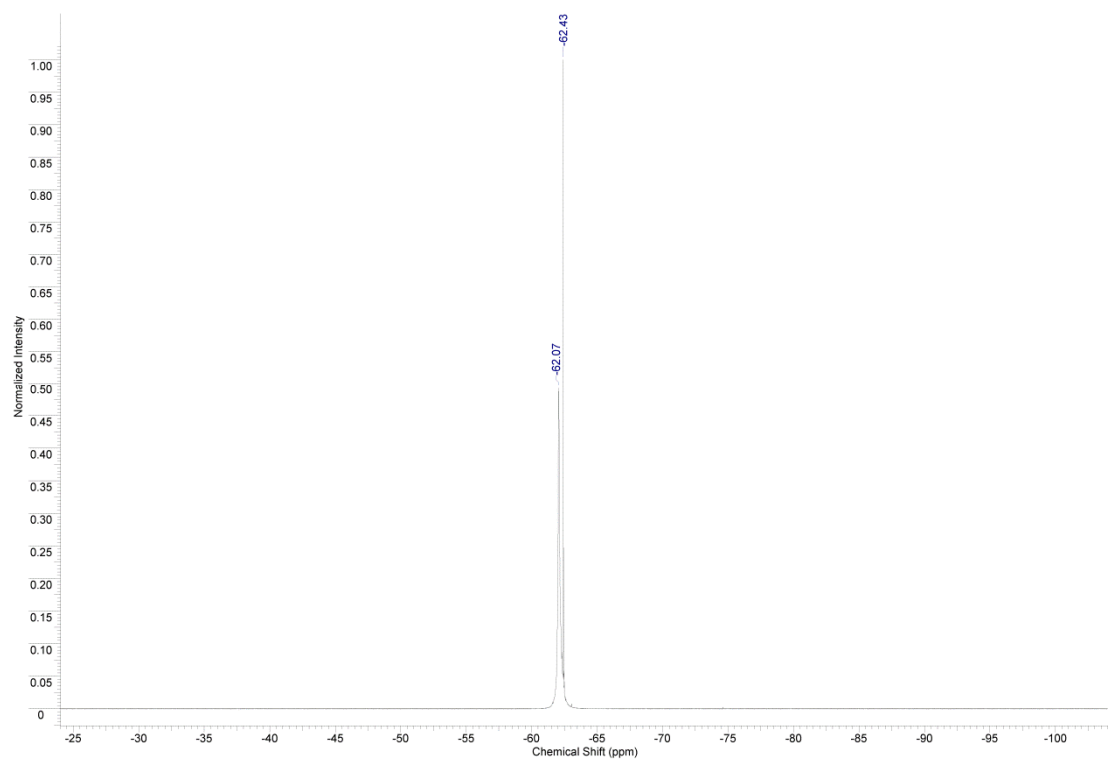
**Figure S5.** Z-spectra of **EuL**<sup>2</sup> (15 mM) at variable  $B_1$  fields and irradiation time of 10 s in solution of H<sub>2</sub>O:D<sub>2</sub>O:CH<sub>3</sub>CN (4:1:5, v/v/v) at 25 °C. The points represent obtained experimental values while lines represent values obtained from fits according to the BM equation with three exchanging pools.



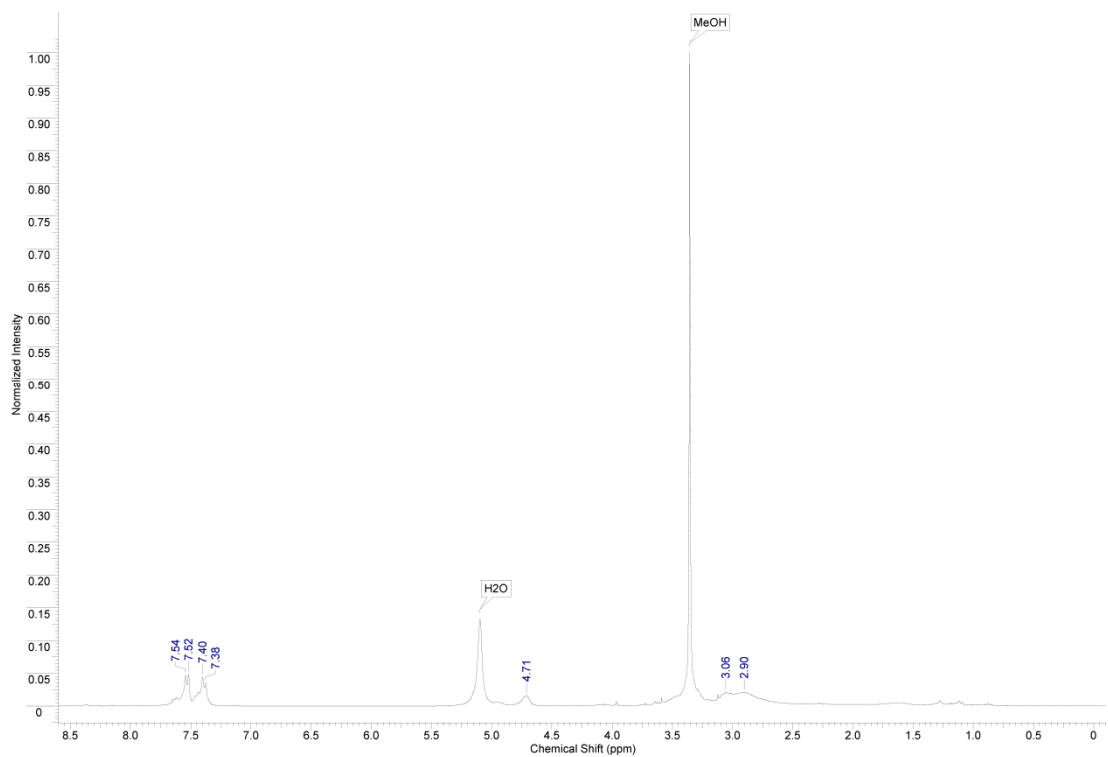
**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** recorded at 25 °C in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



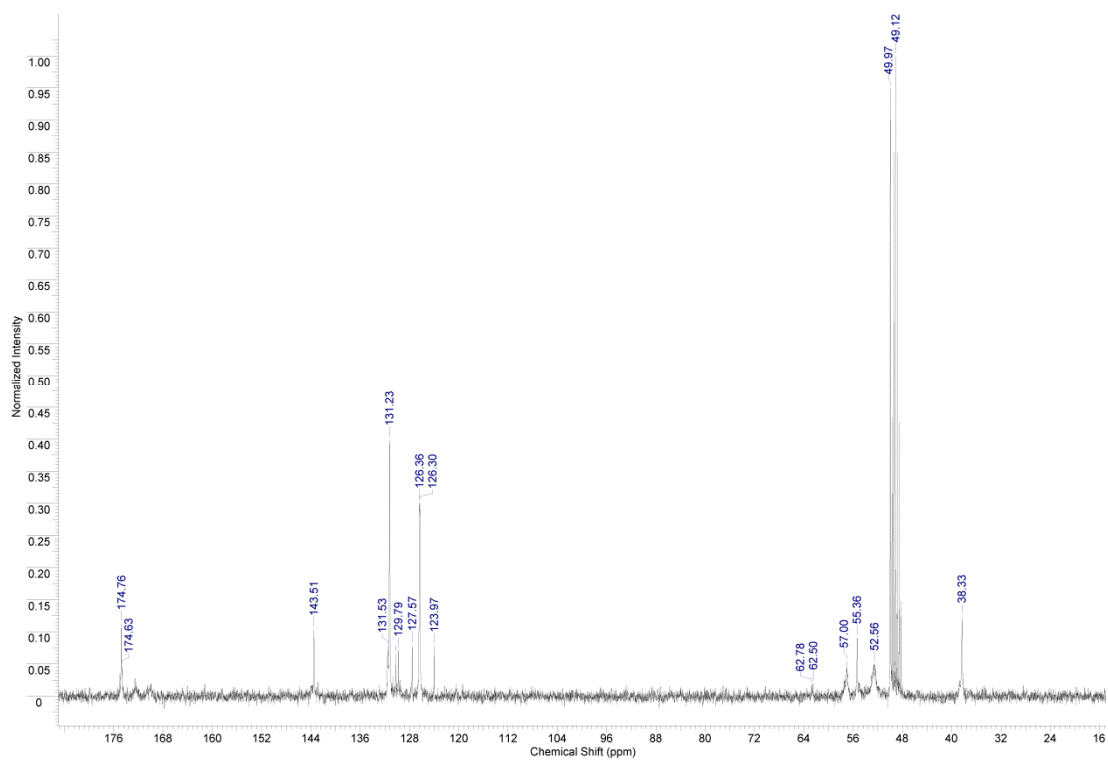
**Figure S7.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3** recorded at 25 °C in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S8.** <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum of **3** recorded at 25 °C in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

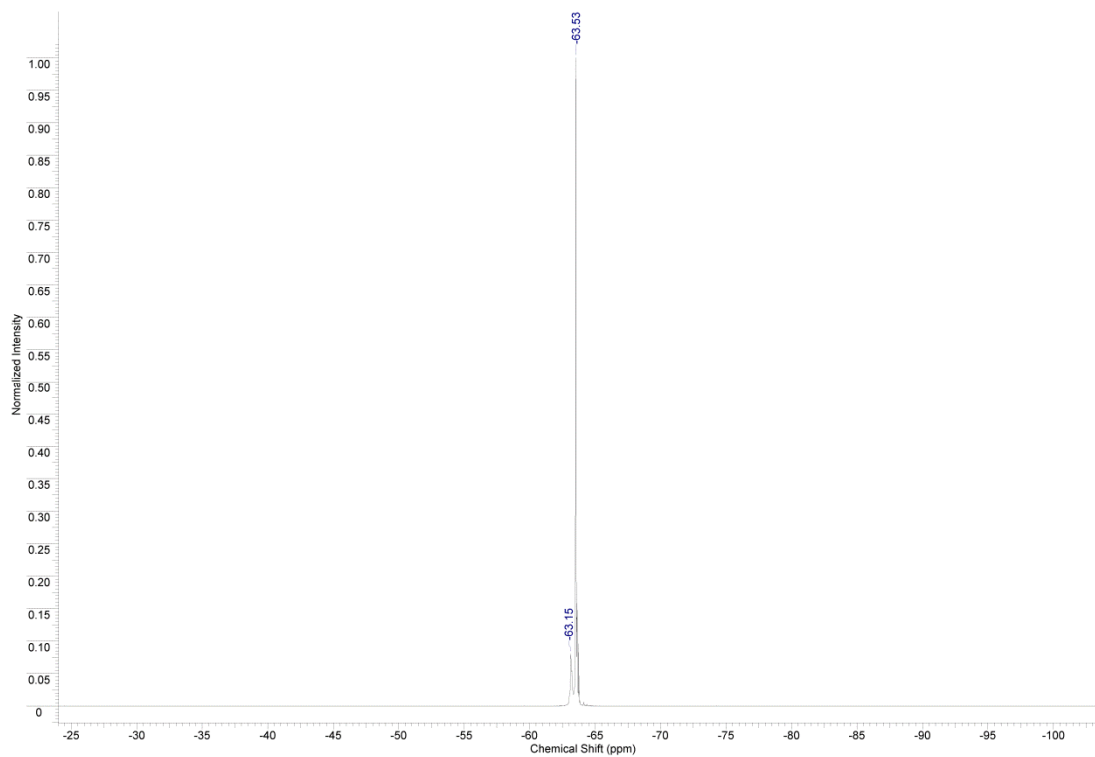


**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **L**<sup>2</sup> recorded at 25 °C in D<sub>2</sub>O.

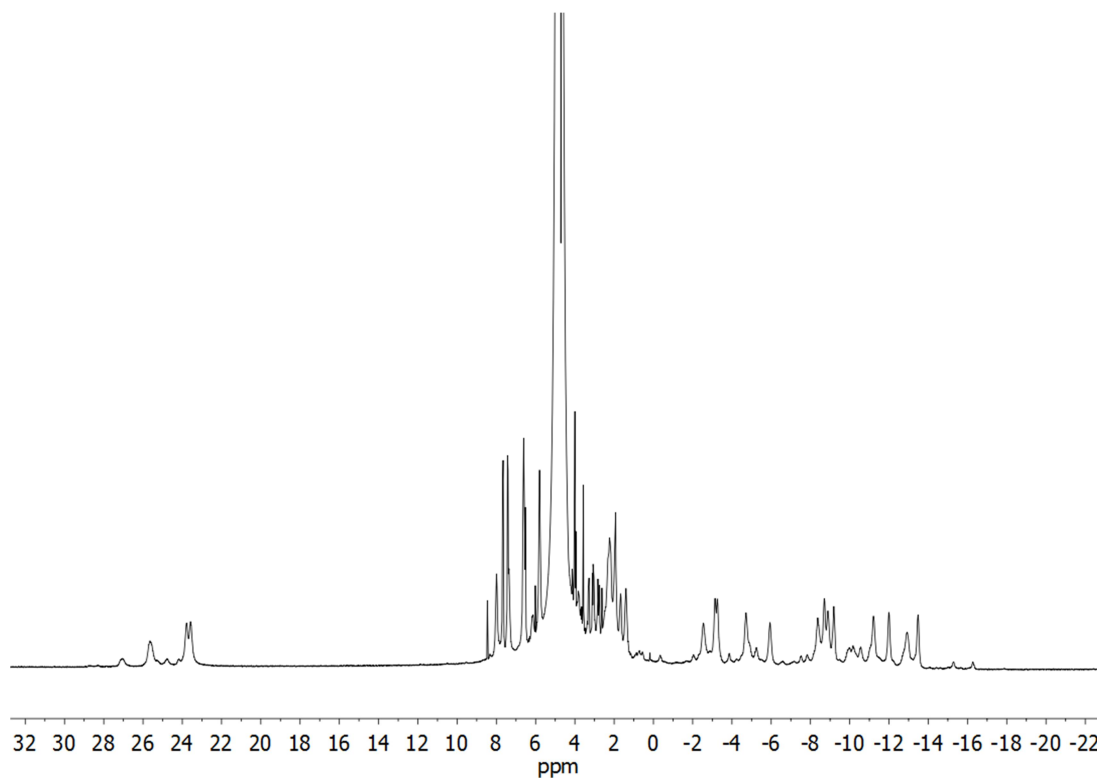


**Figure S10.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **L**<sup>2</sup> recorded at 25 °C in D<sub>2</sub>O.

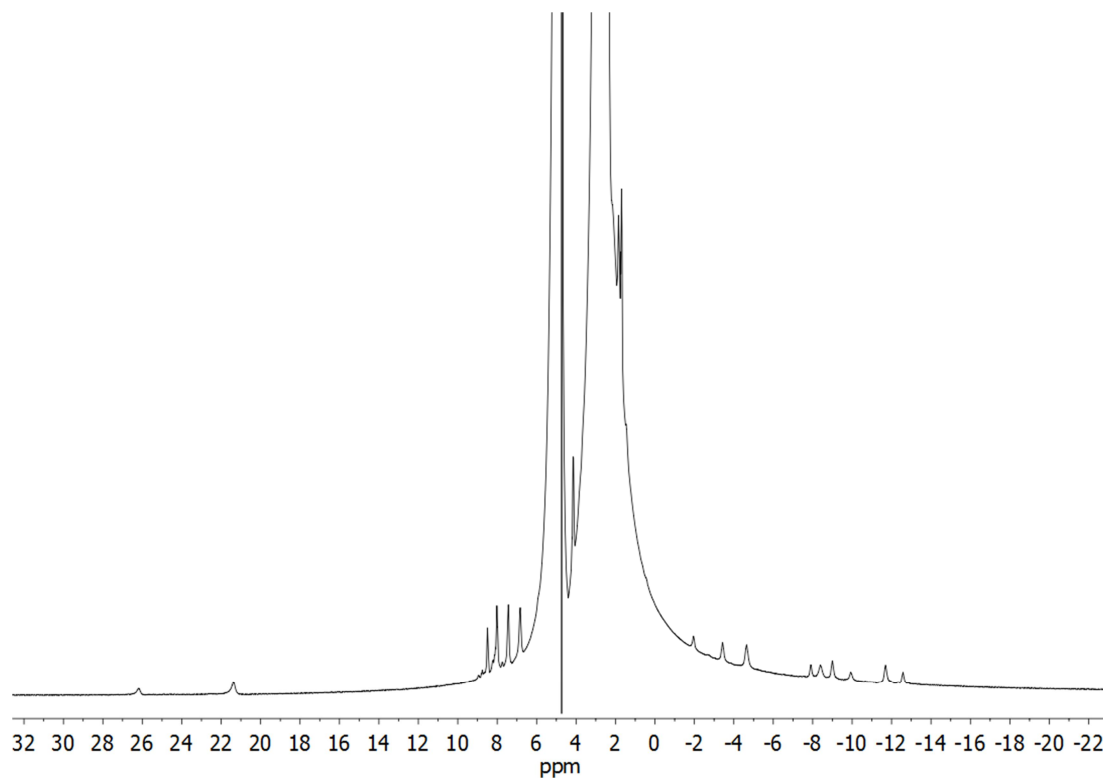




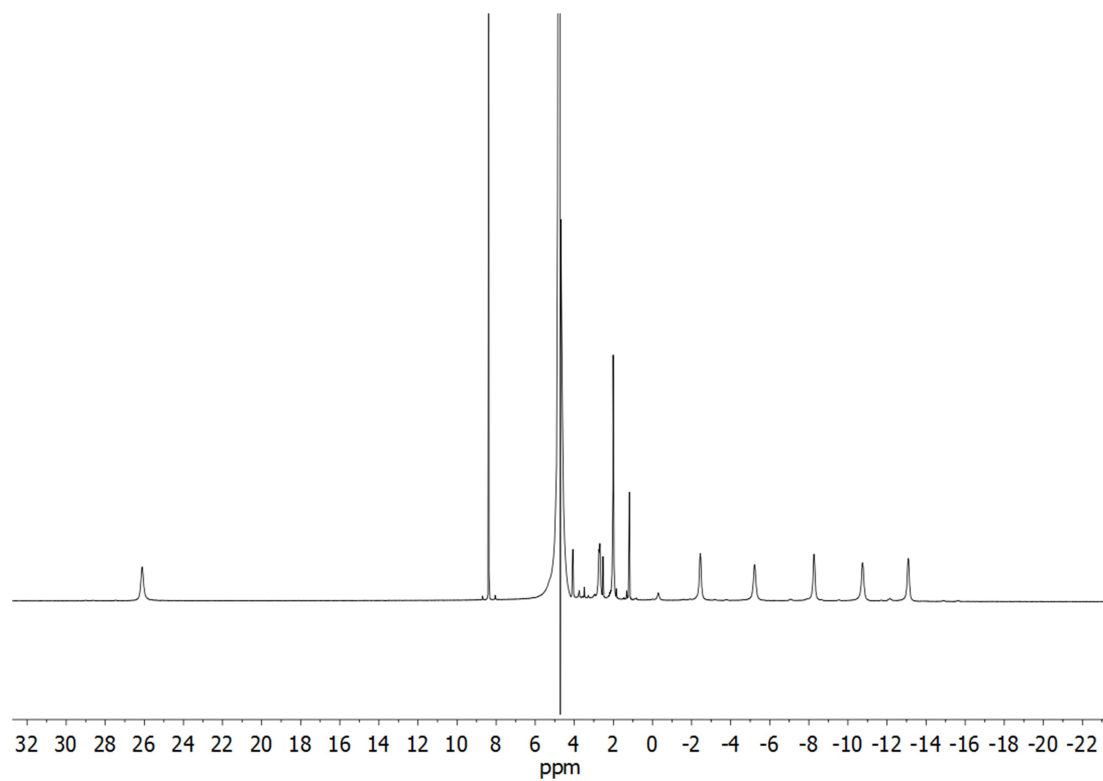
**Figure S11.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{L}^2$  recorded at 25 °C in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .



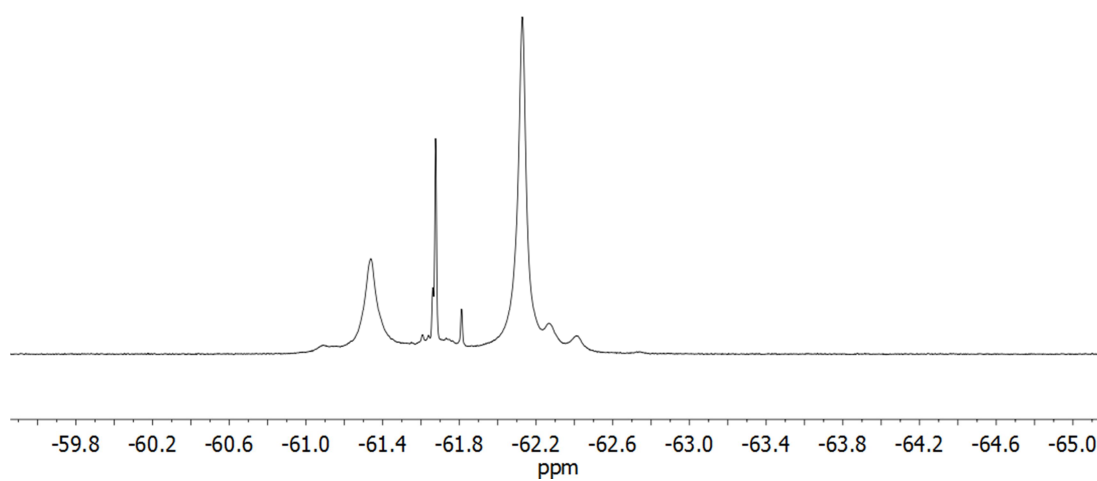
**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{EuL}^1$  (15 mM) recorded at 25 °C in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v).



**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{EuL}^2$  (15 mM) recorded at 25 °C in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{D}_2\text{O}:\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (4:1:5).



**Figure S14.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{EuL}^3$  (15 mM) recorded at 25 °C in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v).



**Figure S15.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum of **EuL<sup>1</sup>** (15 mM) recorded at 25 °C in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v).

**Table S2.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates (Å) of the *SS*- $\Delta(\lambda\lambda\lambda\lambda)$  isomer of **EuL**<sup>1</sup> obtained with DFT calculations at the TPSSh/LCRECP/6-31G(d) level (0 imaginary frequencies).

N	-0.00785700	-2.16050800	-3.00780100
C	-1.36380300	-2.34515500	-3.61472400
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C	-0.99823800	1.93248200	-4.10970900
N	0.01770800	2.12593800	-3.03536100
C	1.37337600	2.30029300	-3.64640500
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C	2.32628400	-1.38430200	-3.60484400
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 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies = -3603.139596  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies = -3603.138652  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies = -3603.319439

**Table S3.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates (Å) of the *SS*-A( $\delta\delta\delta\delta$ ) isomer of **EuL**<sup>1</sup> obtained with DFT calculations at the TPSSh/LCRECP/6-31G(d) level (0 imaginary frequencies).

N	-1.98437600	-3.23302600	0.36925000
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C	4.14559800	0.08004600	2.73511600
C	4.82949500	0.32446800	4.12530800
O	5.40472400	1.42705300	4.26476600
O	4.74012700	-0.63966800	4.94654800
C	-4.74376600	1.41518000	-3.89266900
O	-4.63199000	0.71370100	-4.94486100
O	-5.28665700	2.53259800	-3.74371300
H	-3.49441000	1.48436300	-2.08140000
H	3.47569400	0.91119200	2.49343600
C	5.18941400	-0.08851500	1.59939400
H	5.91583500	-0.85090700	1.90212600
H	4.65859900	-0.47209800	0.72036300
C	5.89941400	1.18993300	1.21450300
C	7.24832500	1.39838800	1.53838500
C	5.22430700	2.18664900	0.49065000
C	7.90754800	2.56633500	1.15603500
H	7.78706400	0.63999200	2.09936700
C	5.87118800	3.36139900	0.10783400
H	4.18069900	2.04282600	0.22065100
C	7.21710500	3.55287300	0.44166000
H	8.95060300	2.71402000	1.41782800
H	5.33427800	4.12389500	-0.44720600
C	7.93880000	4.78476800	-0.01652400
F	8.90617700	5.16673800	0.85564300
F	7.10411400	5.84200300	-0.17663900
F	8.55932100	4.60217100	-1.21520500
C	-5.25074500	0.27679200	-1.63044400
H	-5.95687700	-0.34221600	-2.19502700
H	-4.77669500	-0.36960000	-0.88234200
C	-5.98345100	1.38872300	-0.91356900
C	-7.31752200	1.69664300	-1.21906500
C	-5.34741800	2.11216500	0.10880300
C	-7.99901800	2.70097300	-0.53178700
H	-7.82908600	1.14273600	-2.00128200
C	-6.01642200	3.12272400	0.79860000
H	-4.31963800	1.87753600	0.37589300
C	-7.34701100	3.41776000	0.47863700
H	-9.03397000	2.92105400	-0.77407700
H	-5.51308100	3.66792600	1.59050900
C	-8.06267900	4.53149000	1.18307800
F	-9.39180000	4.28681600	1.31154300
F	-7.57432800	4.75195600	2.42912900
F	-7.95687100	5.71404200	0.51613200

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E(RTPSSh) = -3604.1002098 Hartree

Zero-point correction = 0.900104

Thermal correction to Energy = 0.966685

Thermal correction to Enthalpy = 0.967629

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy = 0.785502

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies = -3603.200106

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies = -3603.133525

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies = -3603.132580



Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies = -3603.314707

**Table S4.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates (Å) of the *SS*- $\Lambda(\lambda\lambda\lambda\lambda)$  isomer of **EuL**<sup>1</sup> obtained with DFT calculations at the TPSSH/LCRECP/6-31G(d) level (0 imaginary frequencies).

N	1.76567000	-1.18337400	2.10155200
C	1.08891600	-1.93252400	3.19813500
C	-0.16132600	-2.66445700	2.72450400
N	-1.18056700	-1.74654100	2.13019200
C	-1.95261000	-1.06940600	3.20913400
C	-2.67177900	0.18202000	2.71947300
N	-1.74529200	1.19704100	2.13222700
C	-1.05285600	1.95191700	3.21385800
C	0.18885900	2.68185300	2.71562900
N	1.19849400	1.76303600	2.10539500
C	1.98429600	1.08339400	3.17327400
C	2.69957200	-0.16540600	2.67156800
C	2.54881800	-2.10938900	1.25269000
C	2.93738600	-1.41110500	-0.04364100
O	2.22291300	-0.44568900	-0.46338600
C	-2.08067500	-2.54240600	1.26401600
C	-1.31464100	-2.96301000	0.01575200
O	-0.36636700	-2.22663700	-0.40153700
C	-2.53909800	2.11495200	1.28415300
C	-2.93362900	1.39904100	-0.00228000
O	-2.22508100	0.42855900	-0.41188500
C	2.09155000	2.56307700	1.23544400
C	1.31796400	2.99542300	-0.00232000
O	0.37189200	2.25388200	-0.42290900
H	0.82773100	-1.21528400	3.97873900
H	1.77807600	-2.65778800	3.65278200
H	0.10245300	-3.40682500	1.96719800
H	-0.59533900	-3.21611400	3.56953200
H	-1.25253400	-0.81206900	4.00663300
H	-2.69005600	-1.75676900	3.64644400
H	-3.40273300	-0.08208300	1.95161500
H	-3.23438800	0.62169200	3.55452200
H	-0.77890200	1.23958500	3.99469700
H	-1.73452700	2.68010900	3.67507200
H	-0.08901400	3.42152600	1.96057200
H	0.63826400	3.23642700	3.55064300
H	1.29372500	0.82141300	3.97729300
H	2.72524200	1.77071300	3.60453300
H	3.41662100	0.09998800	1.89106900
H	3.27780900	-0.60261300	3.49718100
H	3.43293700	-2.49308500	1.77948000
H	1.92229300	-2.96537300	0.98399100
H	-2.49338600	-3.41115000	1.79447900
H	-2.91817000	-1.91418500	0.94607900

H	-3.42072800	2.49844000	1.81529400
H	-1.91902600	2.97216000	1.00446500
H	2.51229800	3.42625700	1.76853600
H	2.92444500	1.93562100	0.90384900
O	0.13858800	0.12434500	-2.07720000
H	1.06902000	-0.15525200	-2.19852800
H	0.15358900	1.09330000	-2.21325100
Eu	-0.00666600	0.00349300	0.45880100
N	1.67355500	4.11006700	-0.60106800
N	-3.98873400	1.84844000	-0.65528000
N	-1.68252800	-4.07026000	-0.59233900
N	3.98857500	-1.86777900	-0.69473100
H	2.42190500	4.73701500	-0.26006900
H	-4.48448000	2.71123200	-0.37657000
H	-2.43530700	-4.69215900	-0.25438800
H	4.48772800	-2.72606600	-0.40538500
C	1.11382900	4.67106400	-1.82517100
H	1.24180600	3.97579100	-2.66152800
H	0.04267100	4.86309500	-1.70374300
C	-1.13675800	-4.61801200	-1.82832700
H	-1.25428700	-3.90416400	-2.65037800
H	-0.06845400	-4.83066300	-1.71460600
C	1.88031300	6.00489100	-2.10221100
O	2.77845000	6.29439500	-1.25399400
O	1.52201200	6.63181100	-3.12429000
C	-1.92445300	-5.93388800	-2.12842200
O	-2.81986500	-6.23056500	-1.27981200
O	-1.58315600	-6.54347100	-3.16715200
C	4.39204000	-1.53209300	-2.06106700
C	-4.38549500	1.49813300	-2.01995000
H	3.49586500	-1.47514900	-2.68911900
H	-3.48457400	1.42882800	-2.63986000
C	5.27570500	-2.73212400	-2.55311800
O	5.47328500	-3.64887600	-1.70130000
O	5.69578100	-2.64225200	-3.73121100
C	5.13475200	-0.17965300	-2.18064200
H	4.44563800	0.63015300	-1.91887000
H	5.38299100	-0.08234200	-3.24263300
C	6.39273600	-0.07232200	-1.34525100
C	7.57981400	-0.71115500	-1.74498400
C	6.40568800	0.67622100	-0.15815200
C	8.73942900	-0.61477000	-0.97650000
H	7.58570100	-1.28629700	-2.66622900
C	7.56100200	0.78000100	0.61807400
H	5.50702400	1.20145700	0.15383800
C	8.73104400	0.13142500	0.20845700
H	9.65069700	-1.10631200	-1.30194200
H	7.55557200	1.37167500	1.52801900
C	9.96161600	0.20167800	1.06335300
F	10.05979900	1.38260300	1.72492400
F	11.09989300	0.05144700	0.34132600
F	9.98130100	-0.77064900	2.01638200

C	-5.13001900	0.14580500	-2.12911200
C	-5.26320200	2.69308600	-2.53258000
O	-5.67705900	2.58928800	-3.71219300
O	-5.46397700	3.62233500	-1.69500200
H	-5.37068500	0.03590000	-3.19163100
H	-4.44363500	-0.66130300	-1.85247400
C	-6.39444000	0.04853300	-1.30282600
C	-7.58044200	0.67649400	-1.72350700
C	-6.41338000	-0.67483000	-0.10061400
C	-8.74613200	0.58812900	-0.96381400
H	-7.57825800	1.24091900	-2.65142300
C	-7.57504300	-0.76987400	0.66776500
H	-5.51263800	-1.18323800	0.23253300
C	-8.74414400	-0.13498100	0.23588200
H	-9.65380100	1.07948400	-1.30012500
H	-7.57151700	-1.33298400	1.59551600
C	-10.01347600	-0.28312900	1.02098700
F	-9.78181800	-0.48069500	2.34305800
F	-10.75573700	-1.34425900	0.59992400
F	-10.81451200	0.80703700	0.91339000
<hr/>			
E(RTPSSh) = -3604.1069362 Hartree			
Zero-point correction = 0.900327			
Thermal correction to Energy = 0.966638			
Thermal correction to Enthalpy = 0.967582			
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy = 0.788011			
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies = -3603.206610			
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies = -3603.140298			
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies = -3603.139354			
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies = -3603.318926			

**Table S5.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates (Å) of the *SS*- $\Delta$ ( $\delta\delta\delta\delta$ ) isomer of **EuL**<sup>1</sup> obtained with DFT calculations at the TPSSh/LCRECP/6-31G(d) level (0 imaginary frequencies).

N	-2.03302300	-0.07772700	-3.22425900
C	-2.00784500	-1.21029000	-4.18892200
C	-1.51113000	-2.50681300	-3.56037500
N	-0.13348600	-2.39618400	-2.99537200
C	0.87480200	-2.44949400	-4.08885500
C	2.24013600	-1.94018700	-3.64425900
N	2.19250100	-0.52311900	-3.16397000
C	2.18378300	0.41771700	-4.31419800
C	1.68156200	1.80499100	-3.93267200
N	0.29796000	1.79718500	-3.36895200
C	-0.70148500	1.65398000	-4.46432000
C	-2.07241100	1.23038600	-3.95113100
C	-3.22956100	-0.15993800	-2.35323900
C	-3.06324300	0.87608700	-1.25400800
O	-1.91875500	1.02350000	-0.73158200
C	0.07540200	-3.51826900	-2.04898600

C	-0.73152500	-3.26419200	-0.78776200
O	-1.00922800	-2.06492400	-0.45673700
C	3.36849700	-0.28920300	-2.29306600
C	3.16692300	-1.11908700	-1.03475100
O	2.00973900	-1.18555800	-0.52885100
C	0.08719500	3.07162500	-2.64031000
C	0.87649500	3.03109000	-1.34302200
O	1.11696000	1.90975700	-0.79292100
H	-1.36396100	-0.91877900	-5.02173400
H	-3.00883900	-1.37942000	-4.61091800
H	-2.17886500	-2.80555300	-2.74766900
H	-1.54876900	-3.30772700	-4.31257400
H	0.49377500	-1.85056800	-4.91925600
H	0.98174400	-3.47758600	-4.46396400
H	2.62564300	-2.56684500	-2.83115100
H	2.94531500	-2.02632700	-4.48337700
H	1.54675800	-0.01751600	-5.08739000
H	3.18958400	0.50835800	-4.74859400
H	2.34246500	2.24510300	-3.18082500
H	1.72598300	2.45854300	-4.81564700
H	-0.31269800	0.92038600	-5.17497400
H	-0.80477000	2.60031100	-5.01441900
H	-2.46693800	1.99189200	-3.26712000
H	-2.76717900	1.16457000	-4.80081500
H	-4.15579500	-0.00834200	-2.92469700
H	-3.27077800	-1.15018700	-1.88860500
H	-0.20294600	-4.47966700	-2.50452800
H	1.13634800	-3.58050300	-1.76249500
H	4.30759000	-0.53977000	-2.80596900
H	3.40545200	0.76734100	-2.00885400
H	0.38595100	3.93320900	-3.25472800
H	-0.97752700	3.19448500	-2.38951400
O	-0.13818600	-0.00856300	1.02002000
H	-0.54174300	-0.89184700	1.15483200
H	-0.88254400	0.61777900	1.11772400
Eu	0.07297500	-0.14286800	-1.52062400
N	1.26502200	4.17563300	-0.81765700
N	4.21339700	-1.73600600	-0.50097600
N	-1.09460700	-4.29834500	-0.05903500
N	-4.11725100	1.58110000	-0.86686700
H	1.10483200	5.09288800	-1.26161000
H	5.07560000	-1.72991100	-1.03614700
H	-0.90699300	-5.27908500	-0.32020400
H	-4.96639300	1.48029600	-1.41335100
C	1.96634400	4.36776800	0.44506400
H	1.36881500	3.98566200	1.27983100
H	2.92042900	3.82982600	0.43979400
C	-1.80620200	-4.26923600	1.21282600
H	-1.22543300	-3.72767700	1.96743600
H	-2.77085900	-3.76307600	1.10072700
C	2.20972800	5.90210700	0.60866300
O	1.76581700	6.62338300	-0.33566400

O	2.81405200	6.24512600	1.65070600
C	-2.01834700	-5.75274100	1.65508000
O	-1.54638400	-6.62431700	0.86370500
O	-2.62818900	-5.91069200	2.73733600
C	-3.99812900	2.77151800	-0.02504500
C	4.07416000	-2.75749200	0.53572500
H	-3.27788500	2.53180400	0.76289800
H	3.28511500	-2.40953700	1.20919800
C	-5.35281000	3.12656300	0.61162600
H	-5.18938500	4.07962600	1.12292600
H	-6.09142300	3.30814900	-0.18001700
C	-3.39682700	3.99007300	-0.83616200
O	-2.96770000	3.74950100	-2.00028600
O	-3.39480900	5.07132700	-0.20252200
C	-5.87182700	2.07995400	1.57303200
C	-6.95578100	1.25666900	1.23237400
C	-5.26511700	1.89972200	2.82810400
C	-7.42429500	0.28026500	2.11345100
H	-7.44405400	1.38208200	0.26920600
C	-5.72434800	0.92826700	3.71582800
H	-4.42607800	2.52862700	3.11567700
C	-6.80656600	0.11432000	3.35720100
H	-8.26189100	-0.35018800	1.83255000
H	-5.24450200	0.80142700	4.68094200
C	-7.34120600	-0.89374400	4.33091600
F	-6.37850000	-1.36637500	5.16151500
F	-7.89540200	-1.96433900	3.70855700
F	-8.31239700	-0.37108000	5.12915400
C	3.57135600	-4.12721400	-0.07566600
O	3.13123700	-4.09597800	-1.26035400
O	3.63486700	-5.09773500	0.71516400
C	5.38469000	-2.91718400	1.32527800
H	6.19672200	-3.18528100	0.63693100
H	5.22414000	-3.77684800	1.98235400
C	5.76517300	-1.68931600	2.12328800
C	6.82534600	-0.86159500	1.72341100
C	5.04495800	-1.33916700	3.27857300
C	7.16028200	0.28298400	2.44939400
H	7.40003800	-1.11589100	0.83642400
C	5.36969500	-0.19861400	4.01092600
H	4.22142600	-1.96681500	3.61036900
C	6.42987000	0.61685100	3.59447000
H	7.98088000	0.91391000	2.12302200
H	4.80179900	0.05894100	4.89918500
C	6.81898700	1.81485100	4.40888400
F	5.76231400	2.35301600	5.06756500
F	7.74676700	1.51100100	5.35815500
F	7.36111400	2.79888500	3.64836100

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E(RTPSSh) = -3604.1066012 Hartree

Zero-point correction = 0.900797

Thermal correction to Energy = 0.967198

Thermal correction to Enthalpy = 0.968143  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy = 0.787703  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies = -3603.205805  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies = -3603.139403  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies = -3603.138459  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies = -3603.318898