

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Versatile pyridine-2,6-bis-tetrazolate scaffolds for the formation of highly luminescent lanthanide complexes

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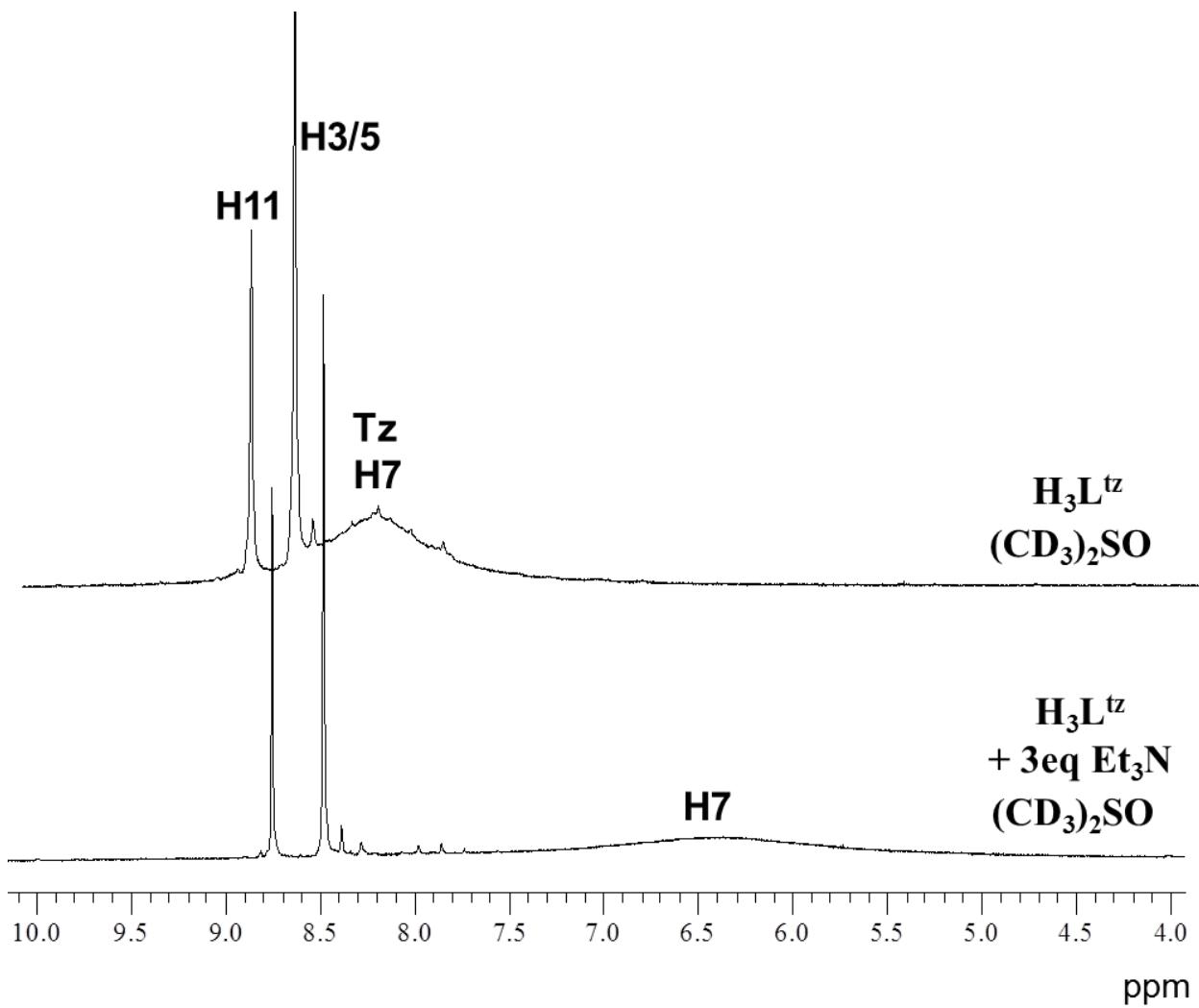


Figure S 1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (200 MHz) of  $\text{H}_3\text{L}^{\text{tz}}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

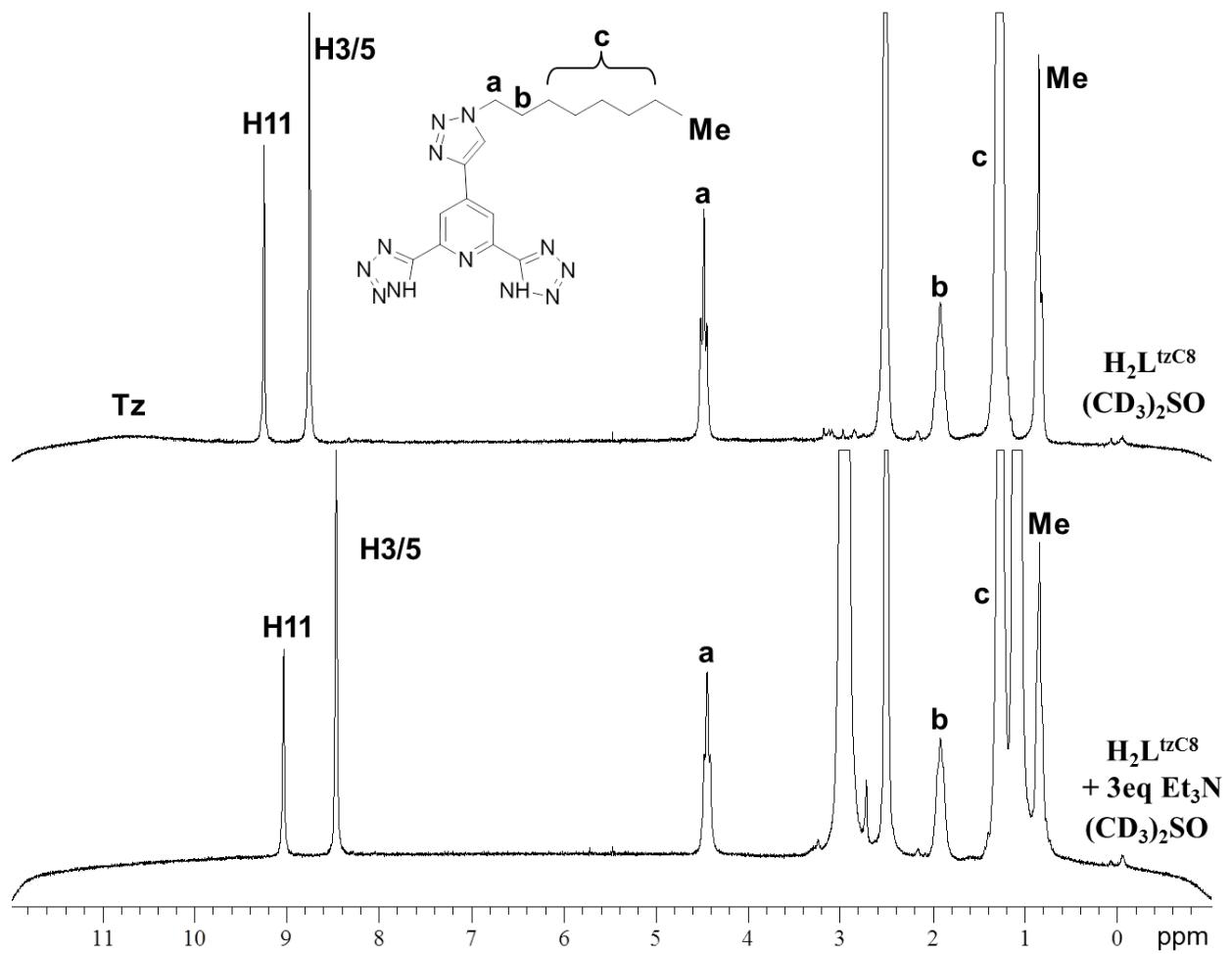


Figure S 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (200 MHz)  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^{\text{tzC8}}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

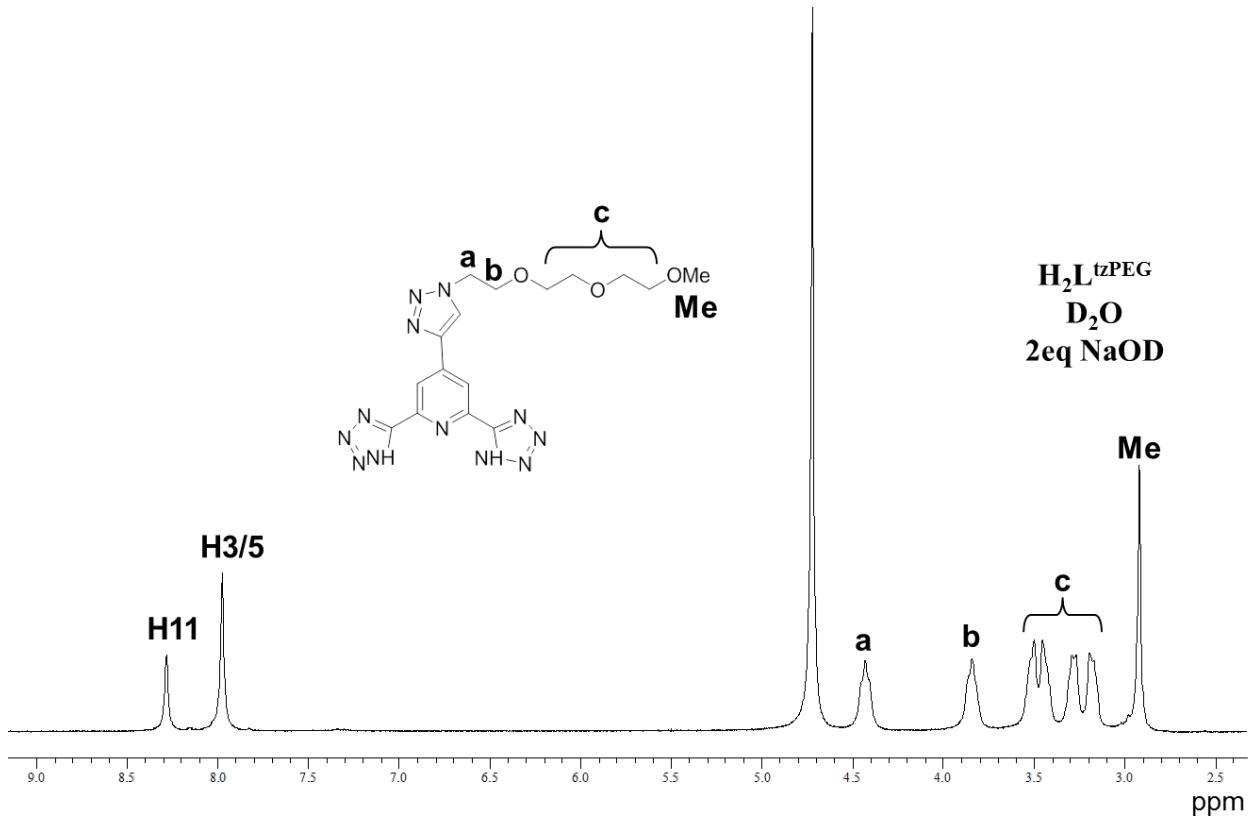


Figure S 3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (200 MHz) of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^{\text{tzPEG}}$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .

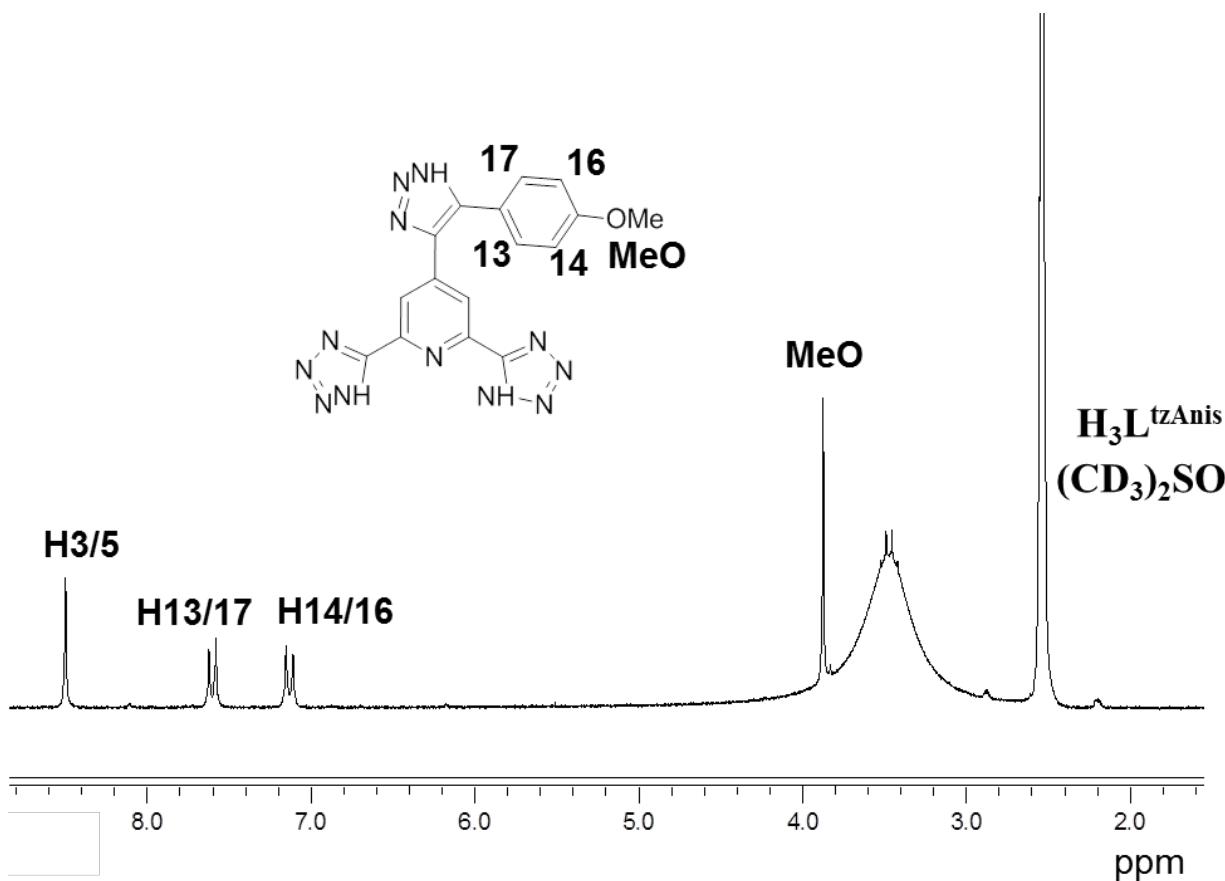


Figure S 4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (200 MHz) of  $\text{H}_3\text{L}^{\text{tzAnis}}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$

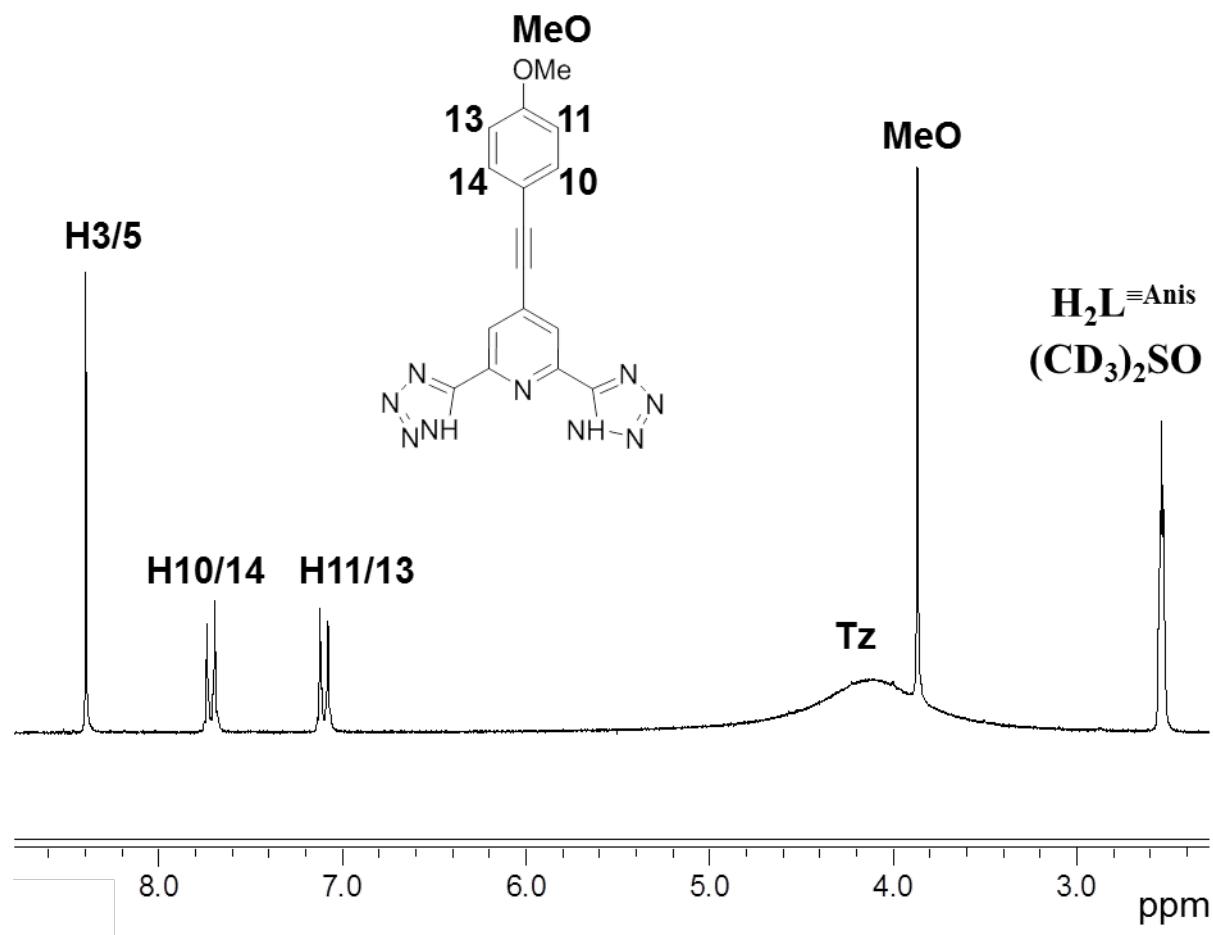


Figure S 5.  $\text{H}_2\text{L}_5$   $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (200 MHz) of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^{\equiv\text{Anis}}$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

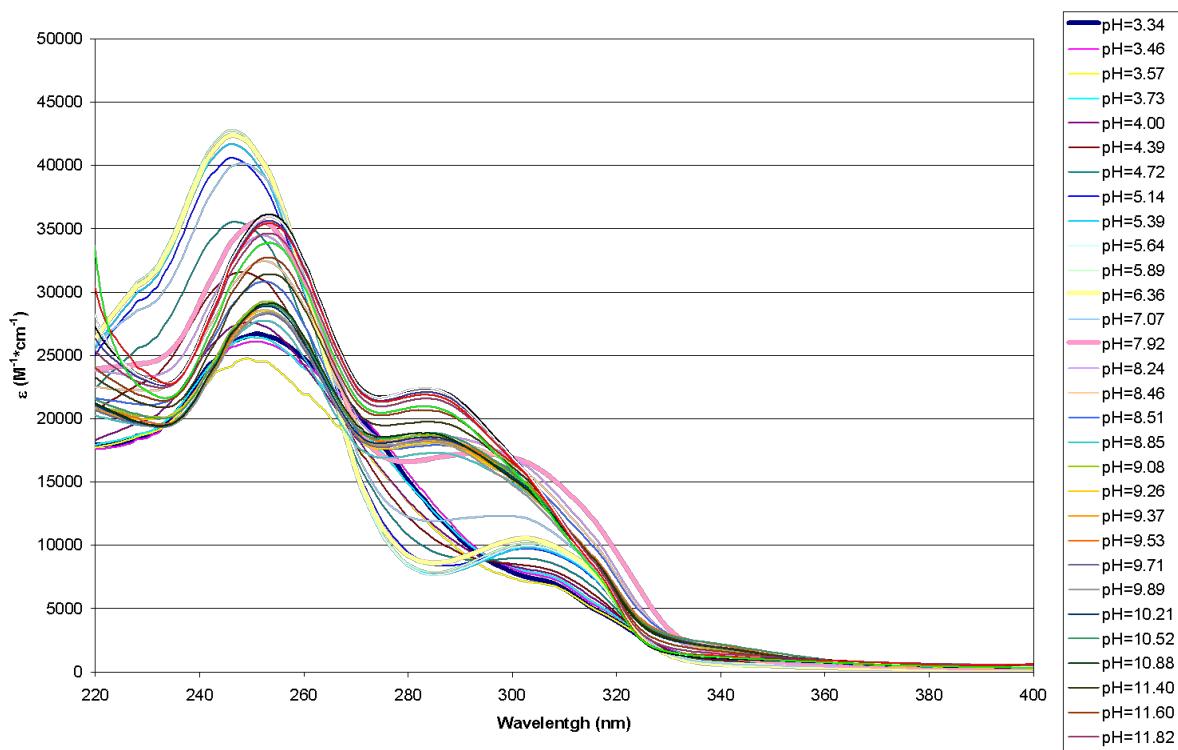


Figure S 6. UV-Vis absorption spectra of  $L^{tz}$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5} M$ ) as a function of pH,  $I = 1 M$  (KCl) in water.

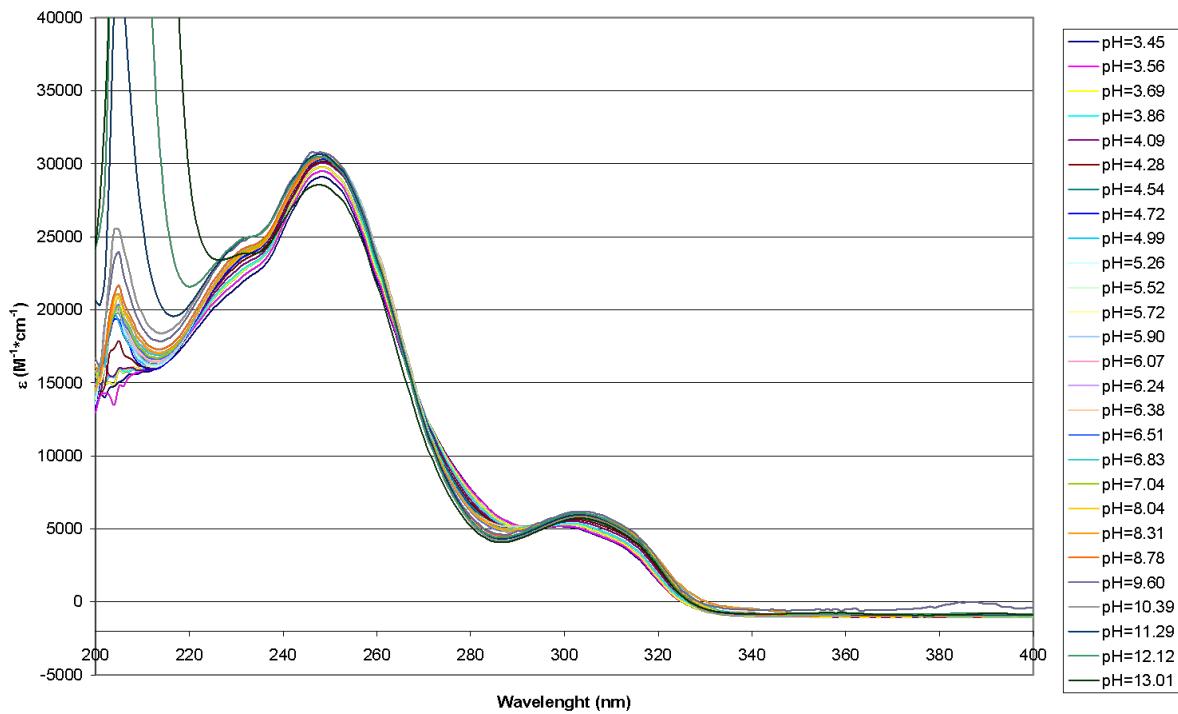


Figure S 7. UV-Vis absorption spectra of L<sup>tzPEG</sup> ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) as a function of pH,  $I = 1\text{M}$  (KCl) in water.

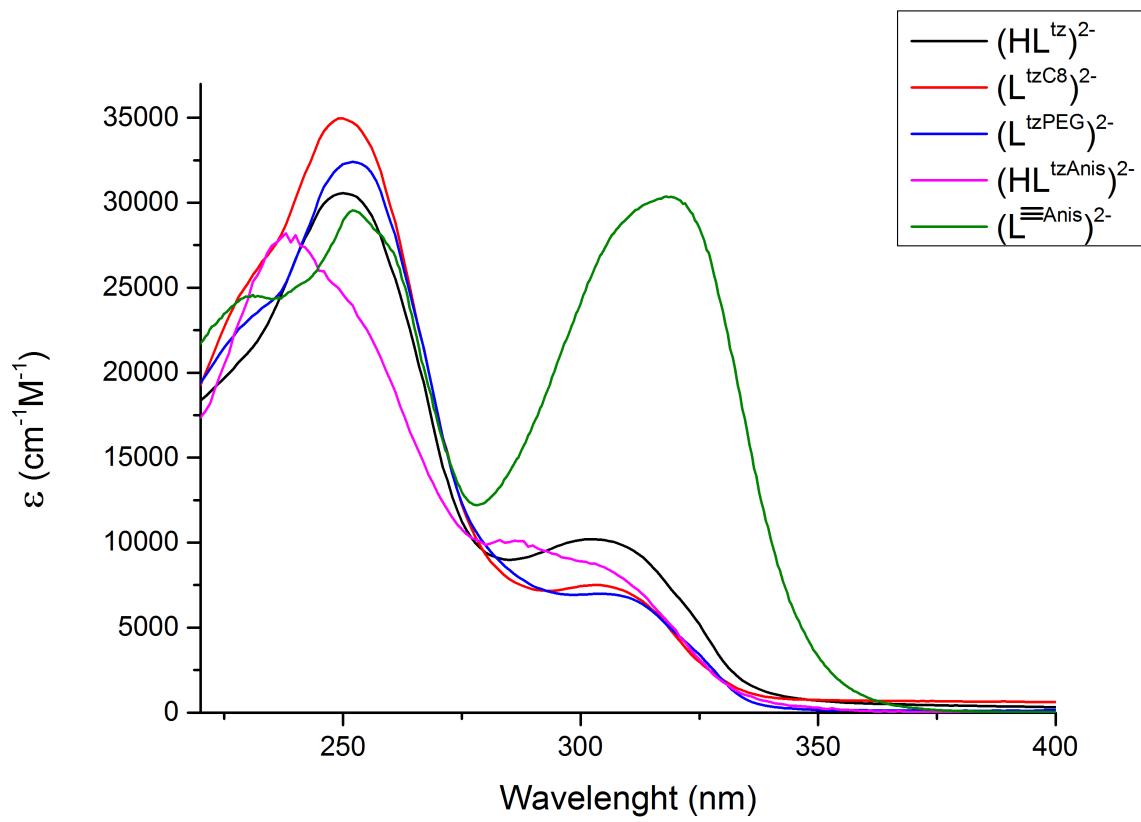


Figure S 8. Calculated extinction coefficient spectra of all the ligands ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ),  $I = 1 \text{ M}$  (TMACl) in MeOH.

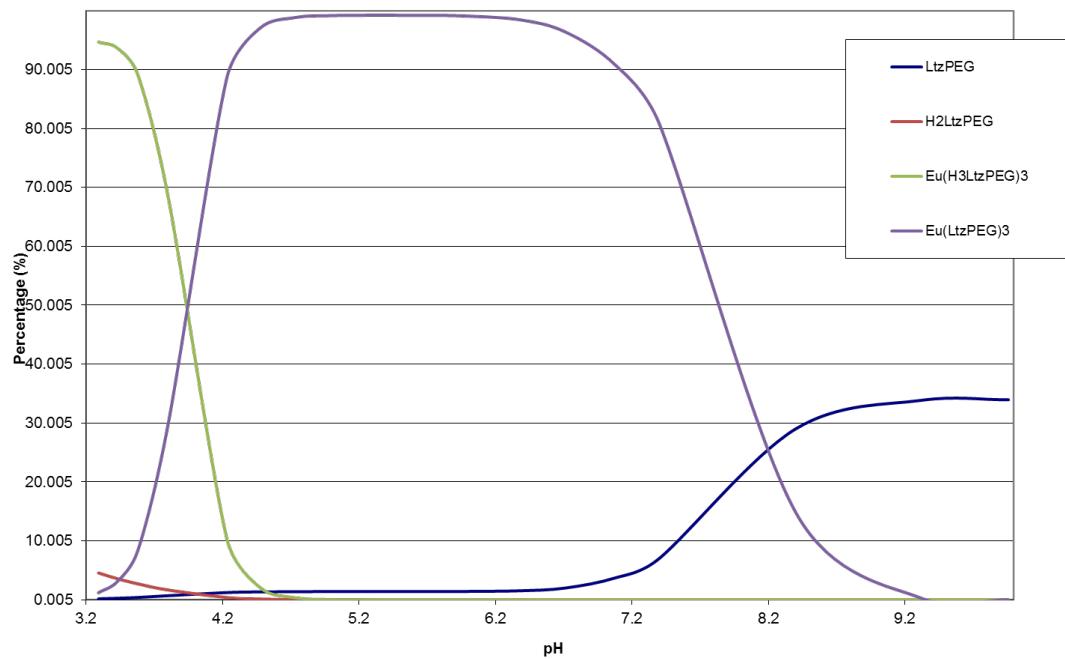


Figure S 9. Species distribution curves for  $[\text{Eu}(\text{L}^{\text{tzPEG}}_3)_3][\text{Et}_3\text{NH}]_3$  as a function of pH.

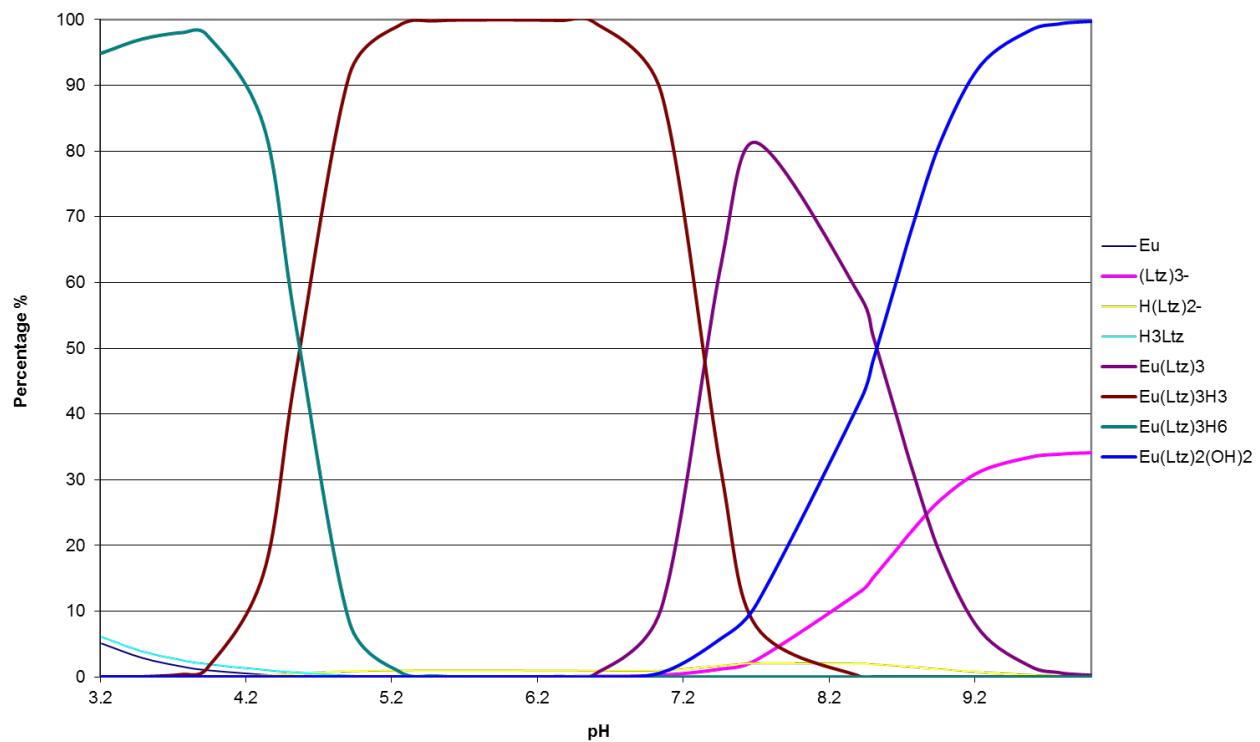


Figure S 10. Species distribution curves for  $[\text{Eu}(\text{HLtz})_3][\text{Et}_3\text{NH}]_3$  in function of the pH.

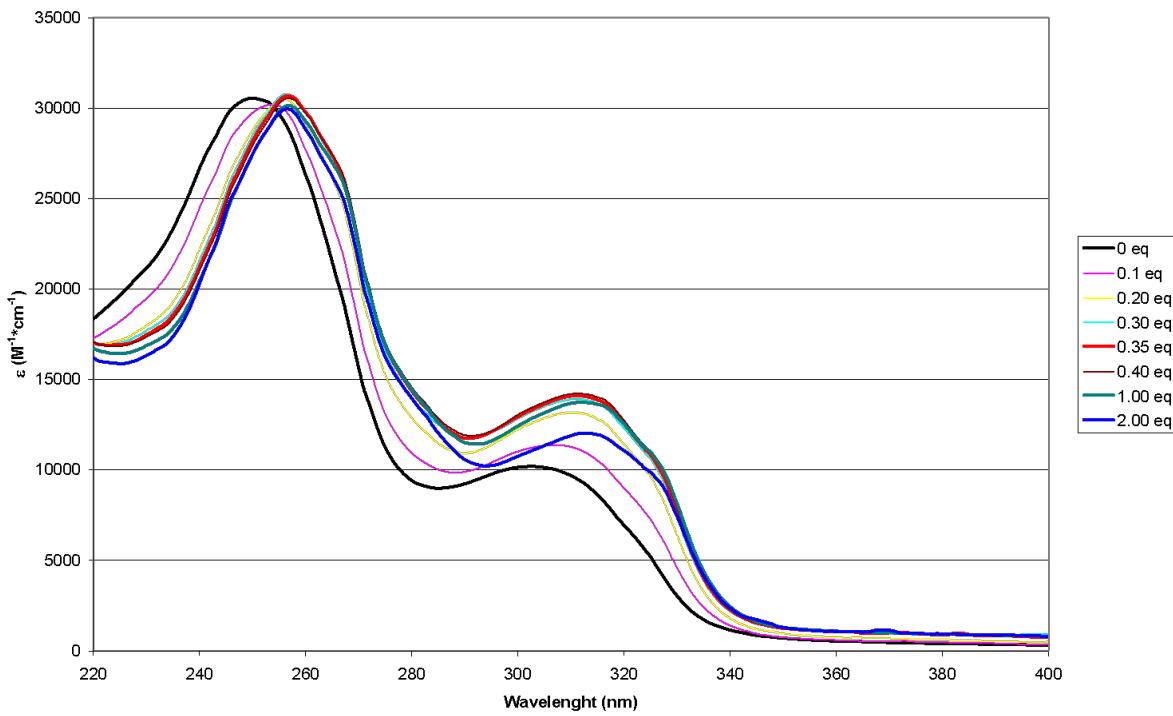


Figure S 11. Titration of  $L^{tz}$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5} M$ ) with europium triflate,  $I = 1M$  (TMACl) in MeOH.

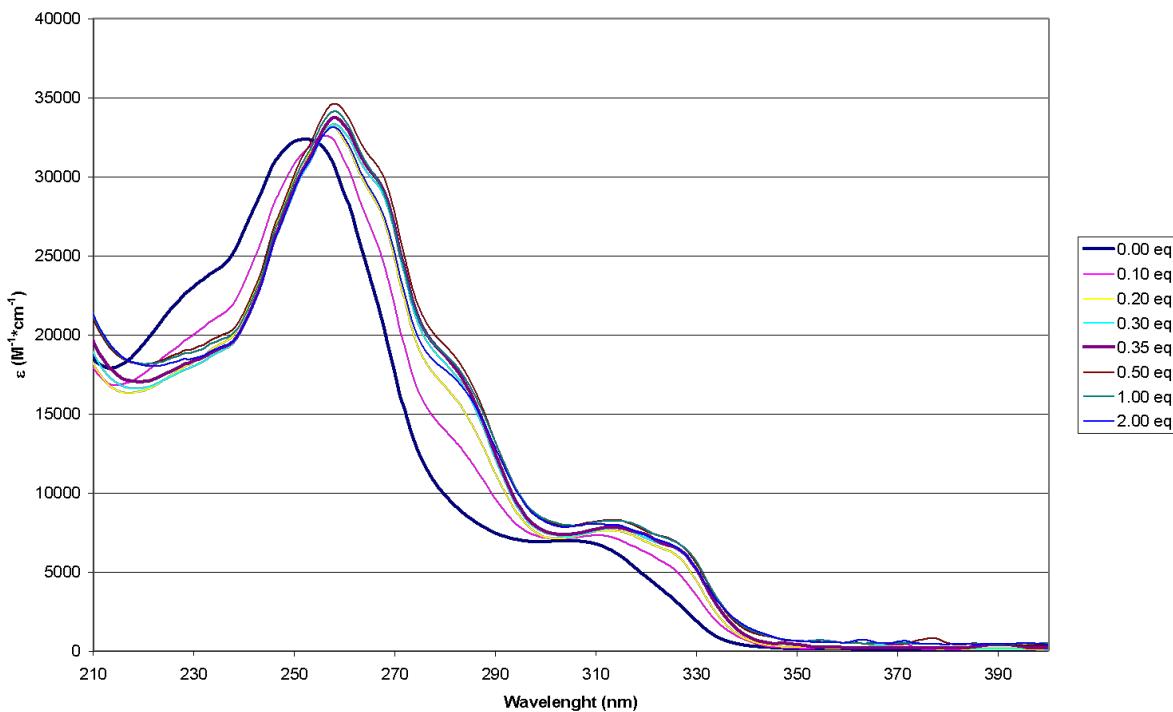


Figure S 12. Titration of  $L^{tzC8}$  ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5} M$ ) with europium triflate,  $I = 1M$  (TMACl) in MeOH.

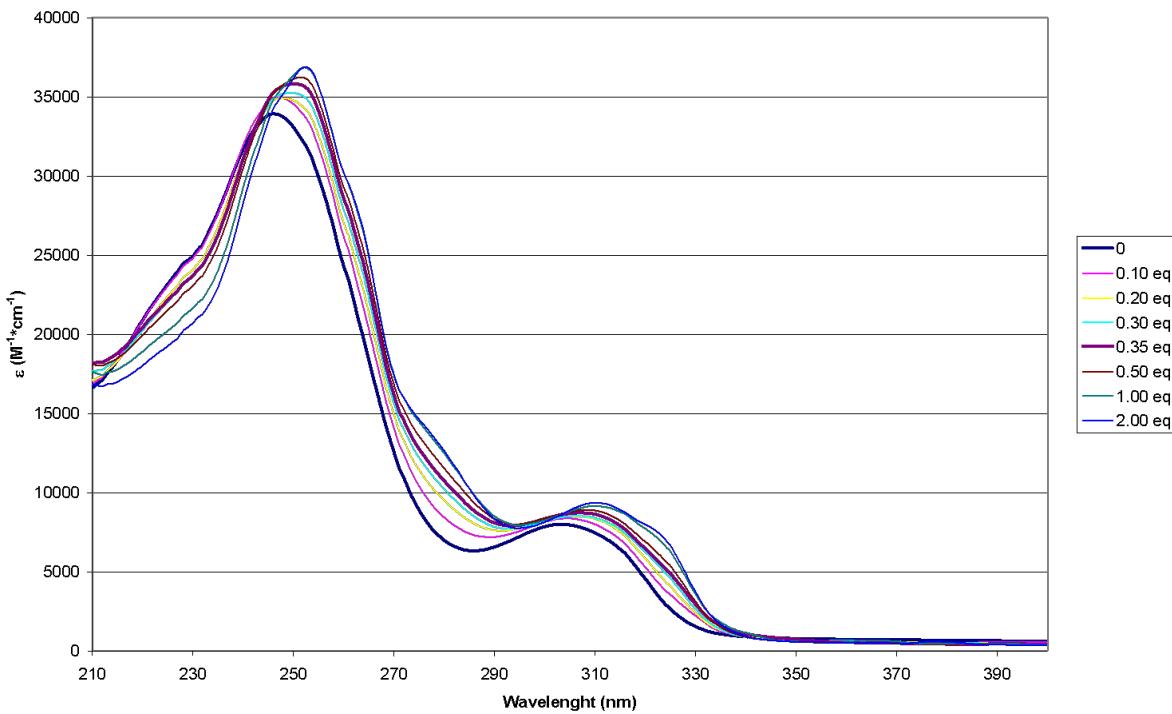


Figure S 13. Titration of  $L^{tz}$  (2.5\*10<sup>-5</sup> M) with europium triflate in MES buffer.

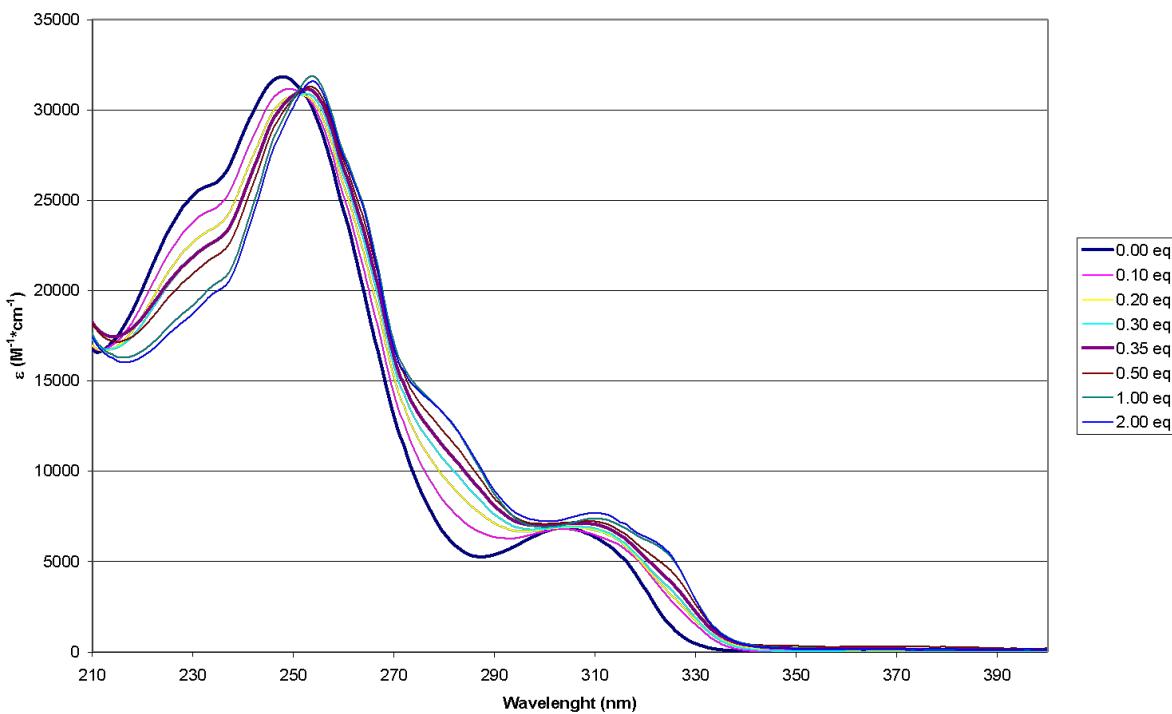


Figure S 14. Titration of  $L^{tzPEG}$  (2.5\*10<sup>-5</sup> M) with europium triflate in water MES buffer.

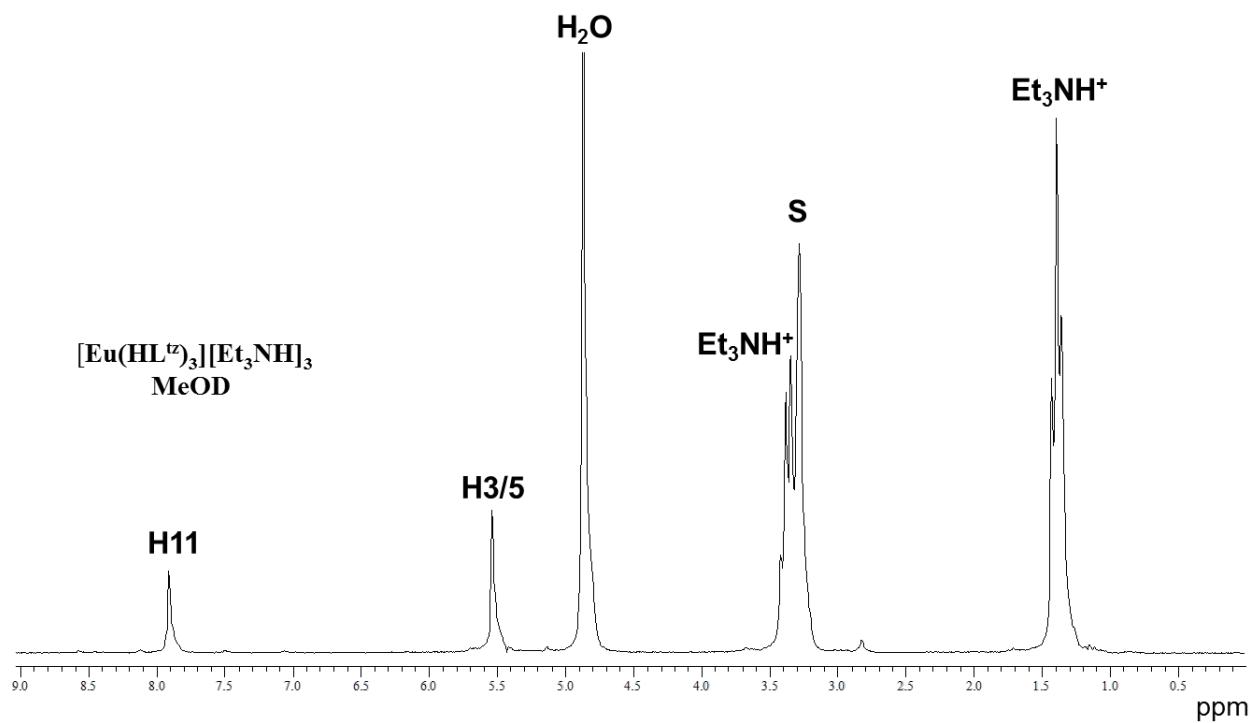


Figure S 15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Eu(HL<sup>tz</sup>)<sub>3</sub>][Et<sub>3</sub>NH]<sub>3</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (200 MHz).

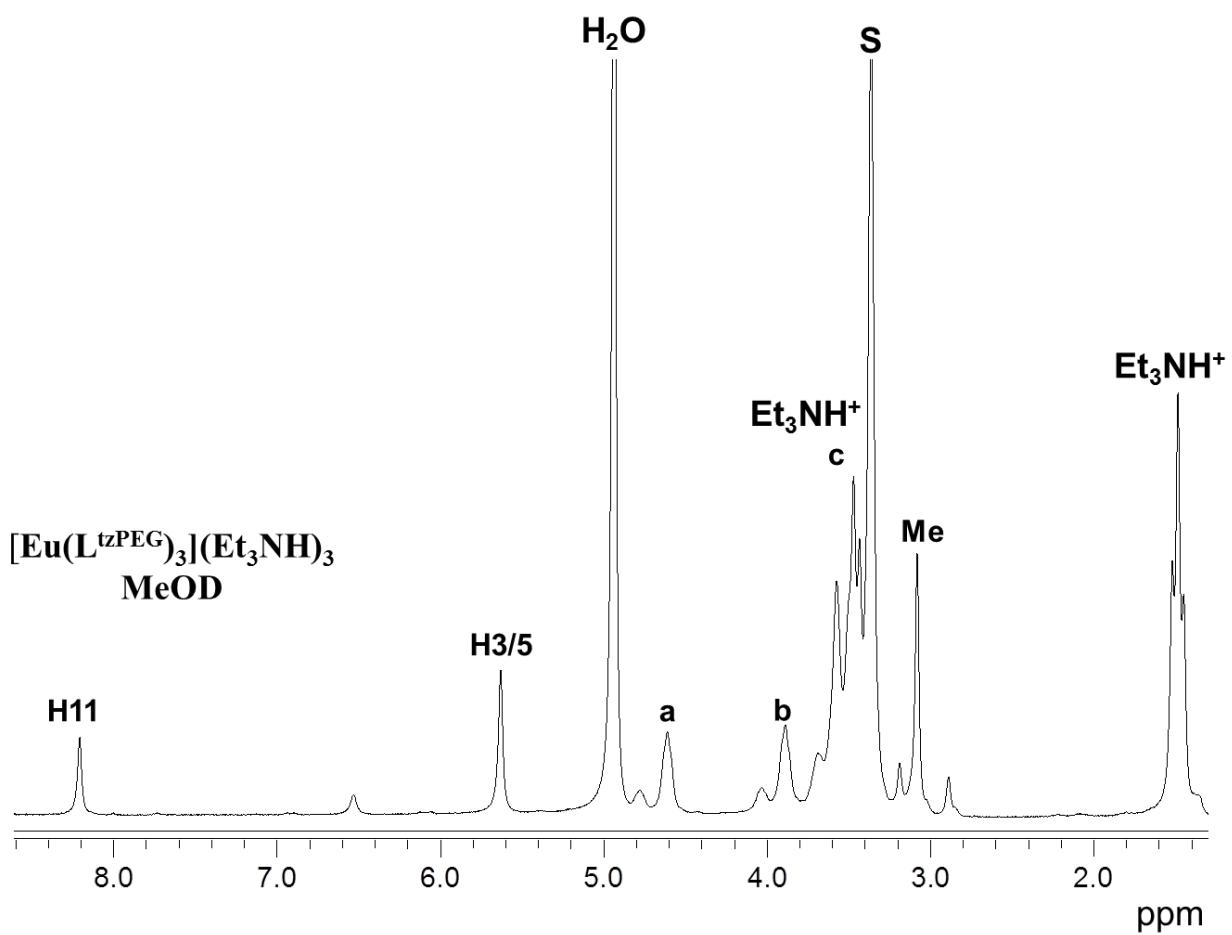


Figure S 16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Eu(L<sup>tzPEG</sup>)<sub>3</sub>][Et<sub>3</sub>NH]<sub>3</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (200 MHz).

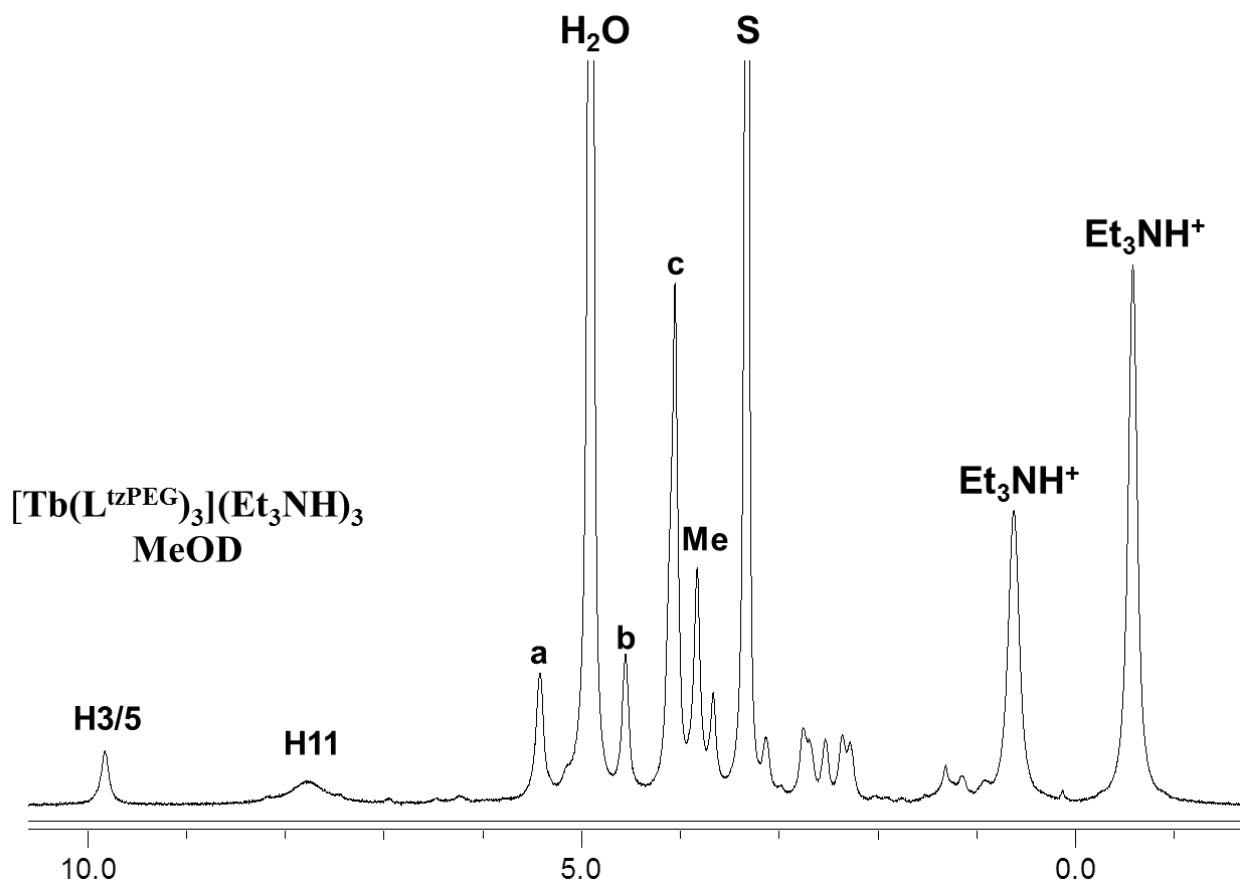


Figure S 17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Tb(L<sup>tzPEG</sup>)<sub>3</sub>][Et<sub>3</sub>NH]<sub>3</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (200 MHz).

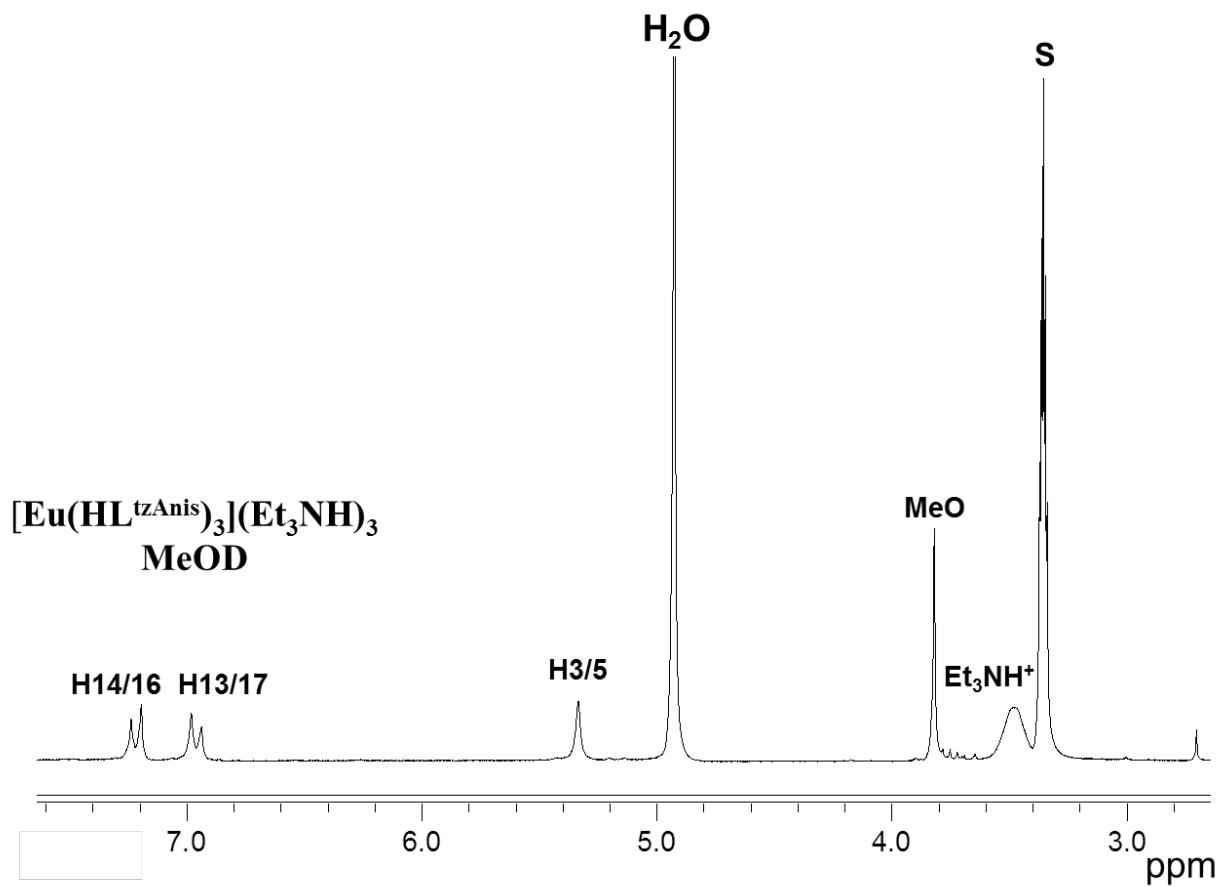


Figure S 18. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Eu(HL<sup>tzAnis</sup>)<sub>3</sub>][Et<sub>3</sub>NH]<sub>3</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (200 MHz).

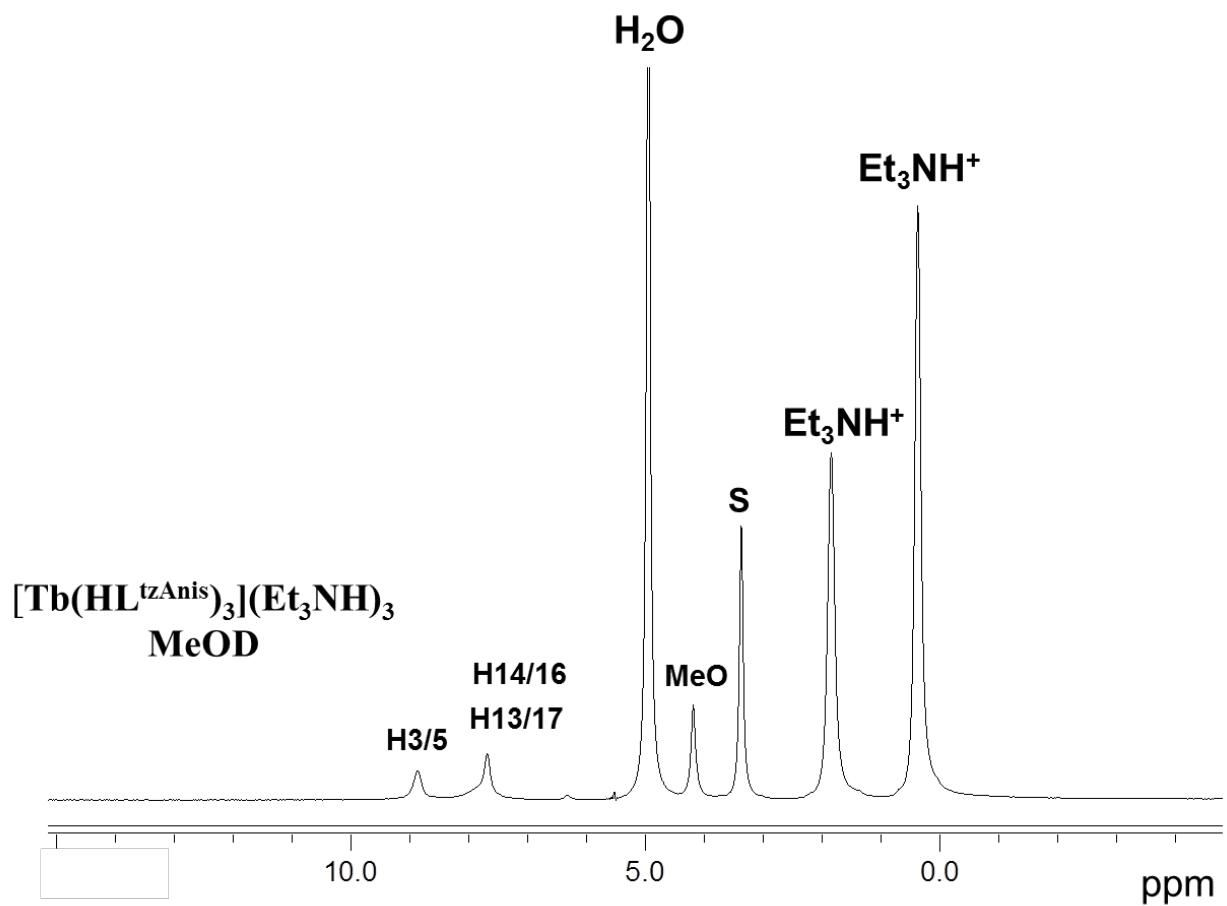


Figure S 19.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Tb}(\text{HL}^{\text{tzAnis}})_3][\text{Et}_3\text{NH}]_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (200 MHz).

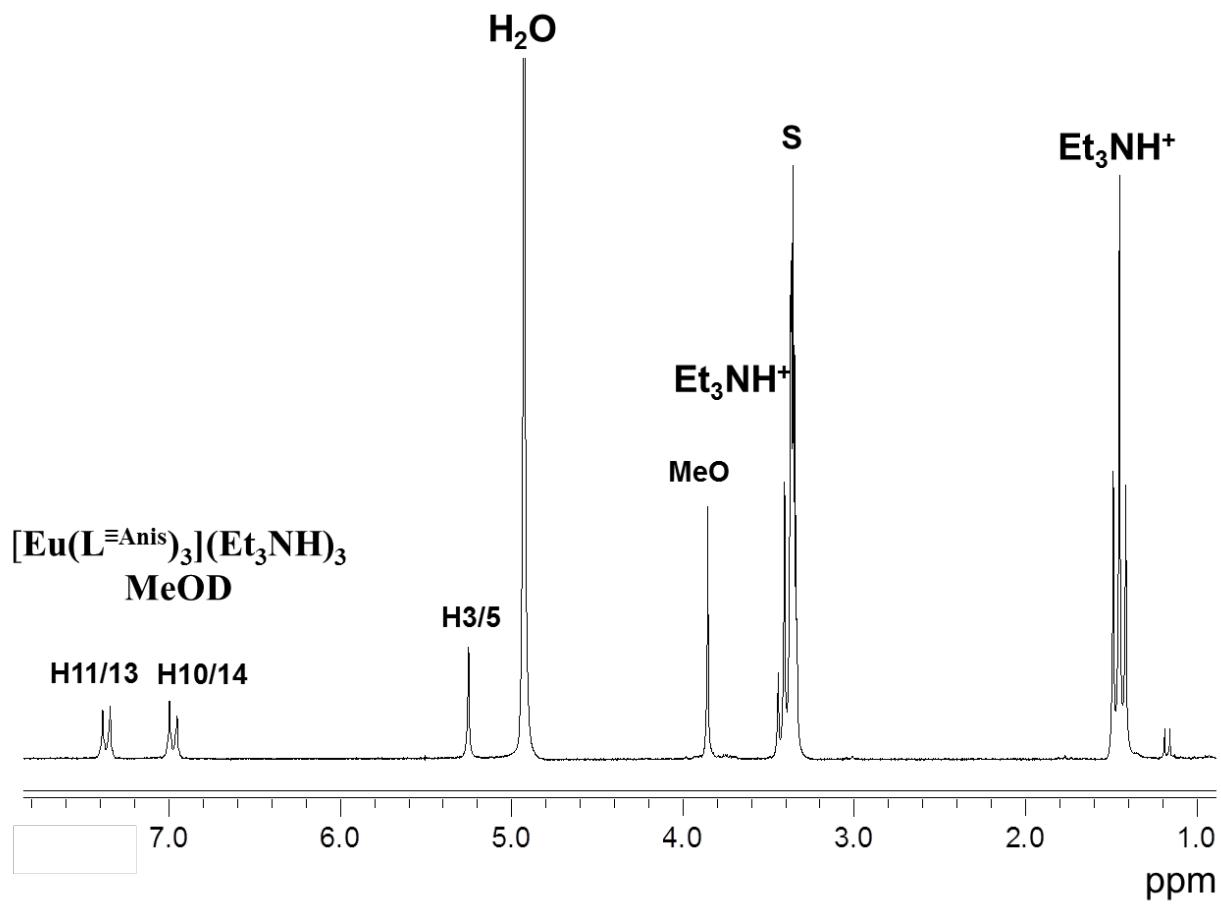


Figure S 20.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{L}^{\equiv\text{Anis}})_3](\text{Et}_3\text{NH})_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (200 MHz).

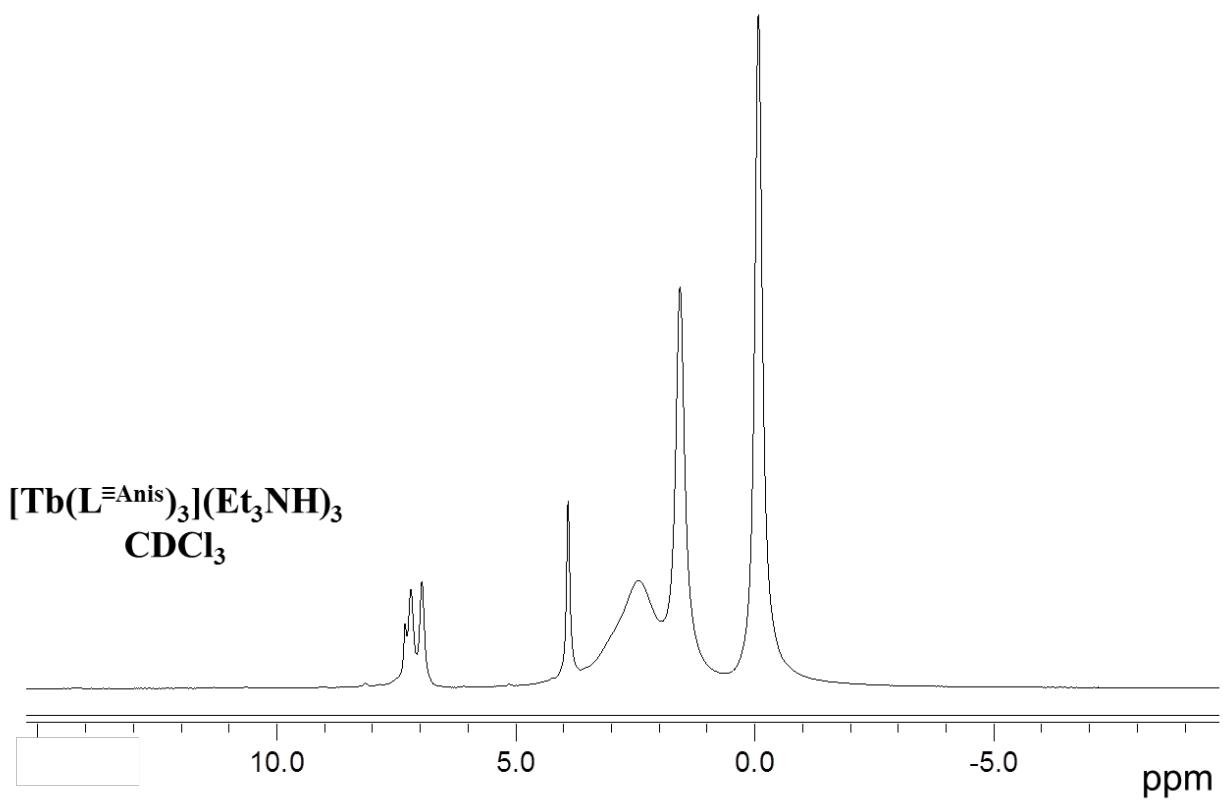


Figure S 21.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Tb}(\text{L}^{\equiv\text{Anis}})_3][\text{Et}_3\text{NH}]_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  (200 MHz).

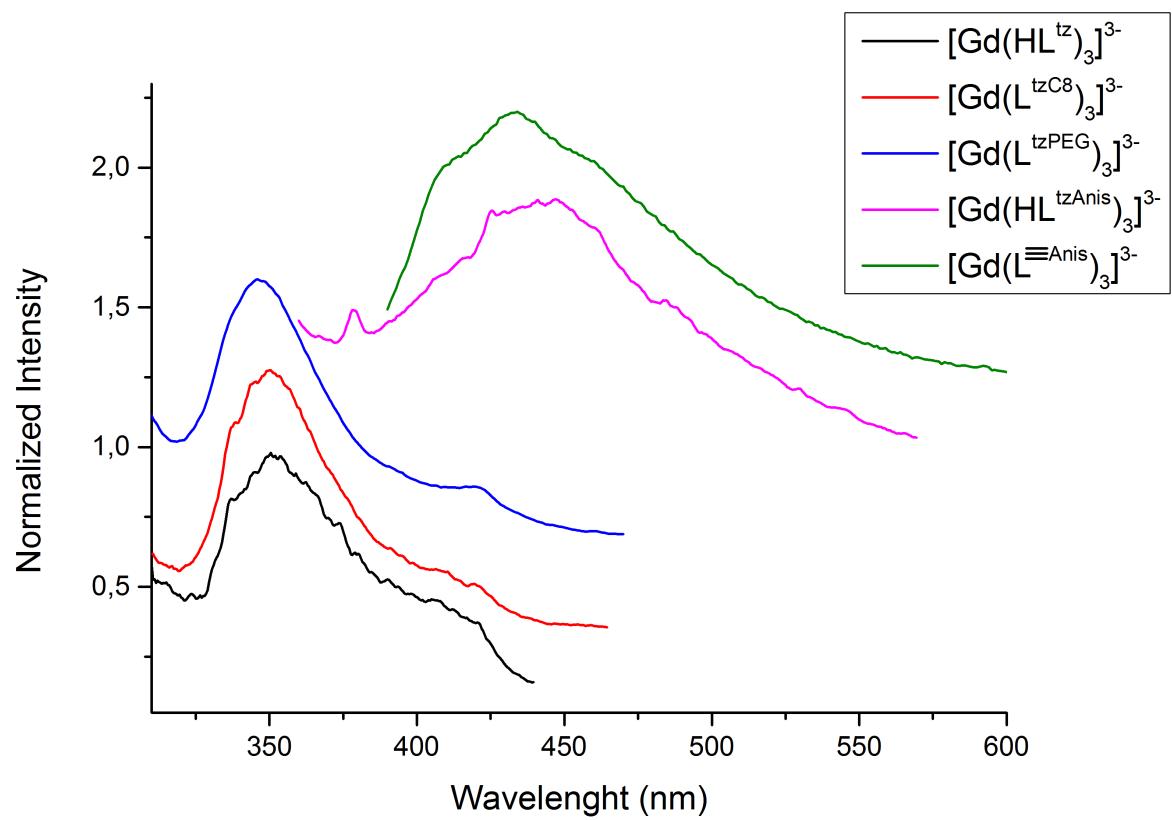


Figure S 22. Normalized emission spectra (singlet state) of the gadolinium complexes of all the ligands in MeOH.

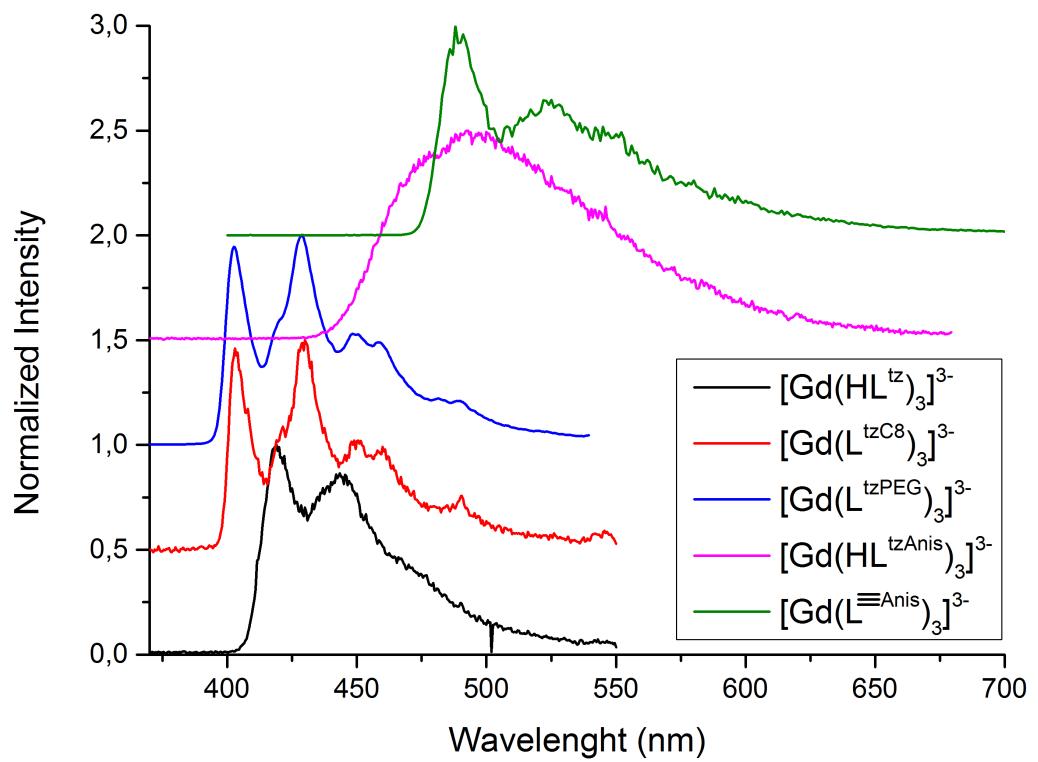


Figure S 23. Normalized emission spectra (triplet state) of the gadolinium complexes of all the ligands upon enforcement of a time delay (0.2 ms), in MeOH at 77 K

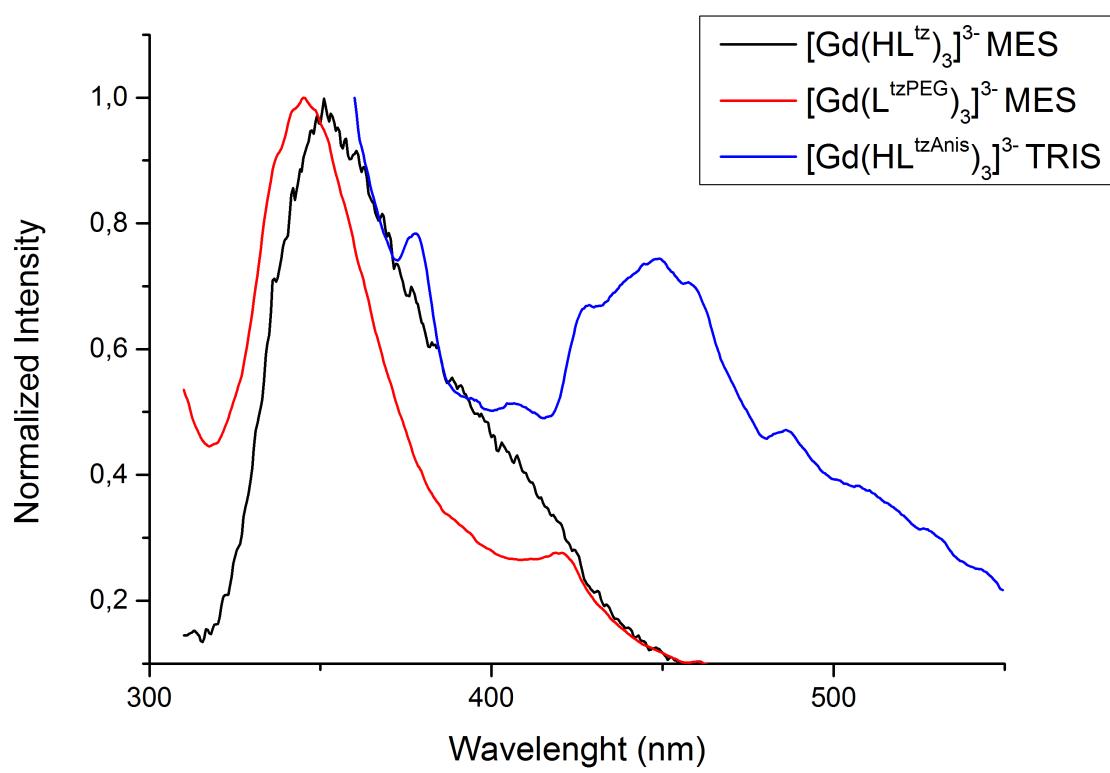


Figure S 24. Normalized emission spectra (singlet state) in water of the gadolinium complexes of  $\text{L}^{\text{tz}}$ ,  $\text{L}^{\text{tzPEG}}$  and  $\text{L}^{\text{tzAnis}}$ .

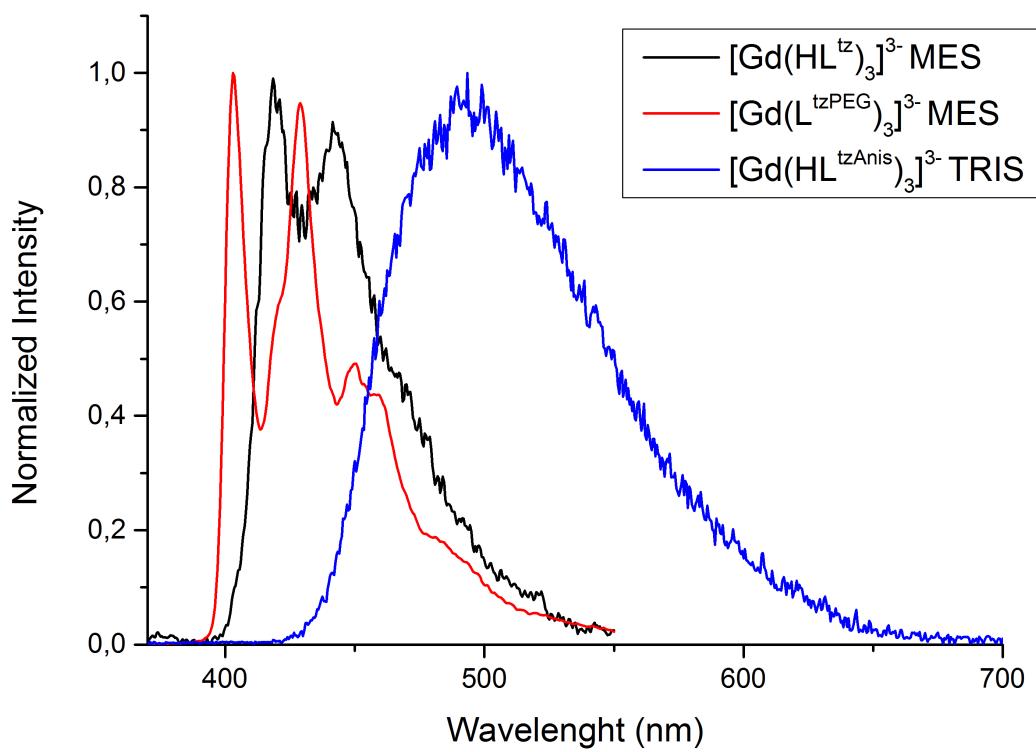


Figure S 25. Normalized emission spectra (triplet state) in water at 77K of the gadolinium complexes of  $\text{L}^{\text{tz}}$ ,  $\text{L}^{\text{tzPEG}}$  and  $\text{L}^{\text{tzAnis}}$  upon enforcement of a time delay (0.2 ms).

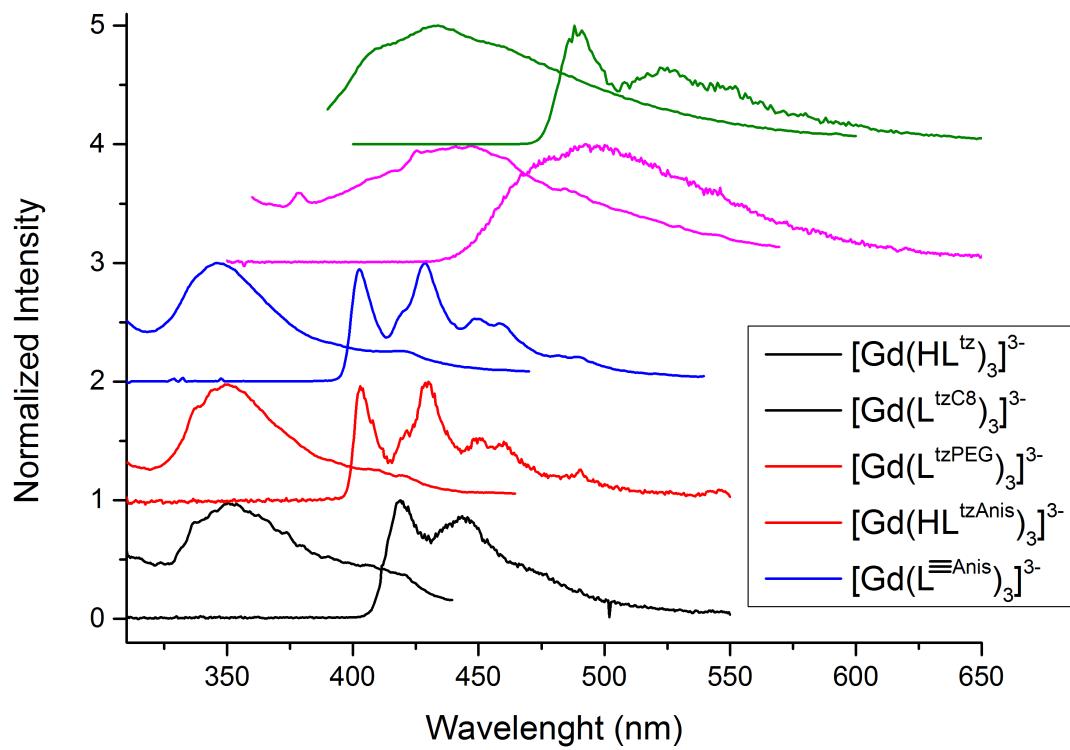


Figure S 26. Overall singlet/triplet state comparison for the gadolinium complexes of all the ligands in methanol.

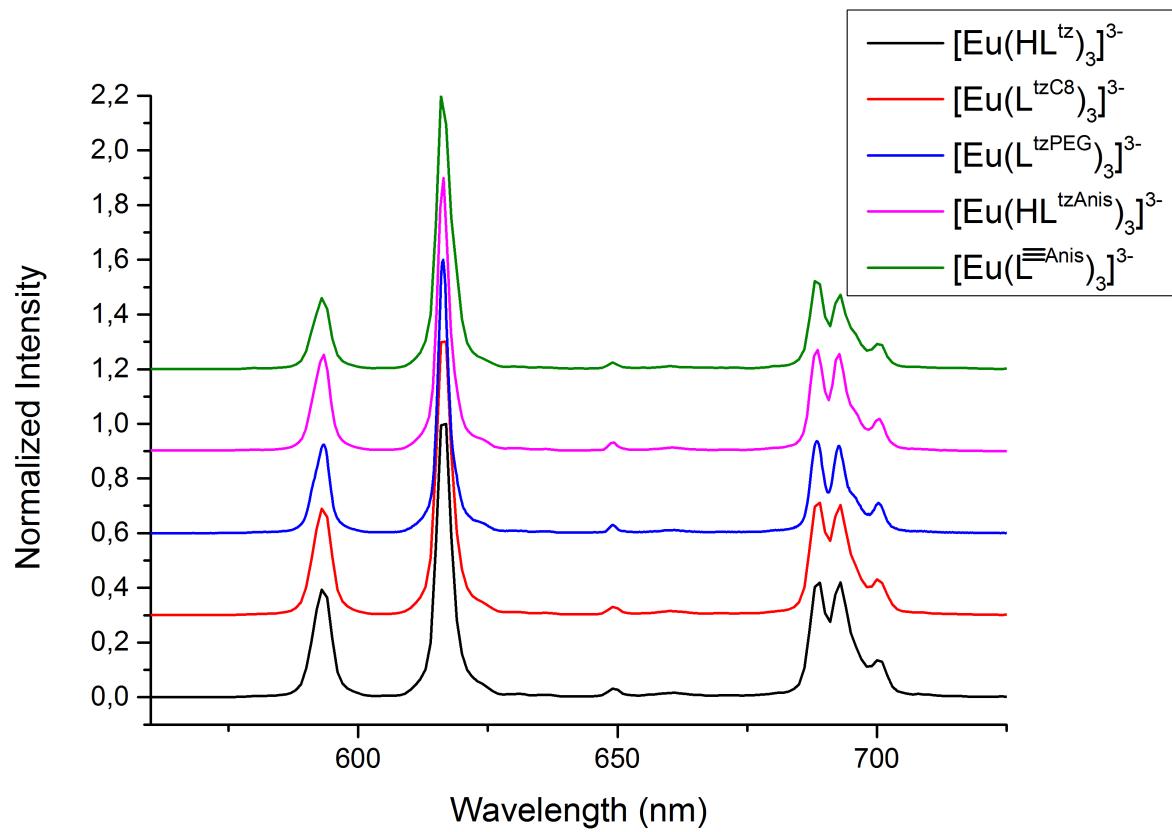


Figure S 27. Normalized emission spectra of the europium complexes of all the ligands in methanol.

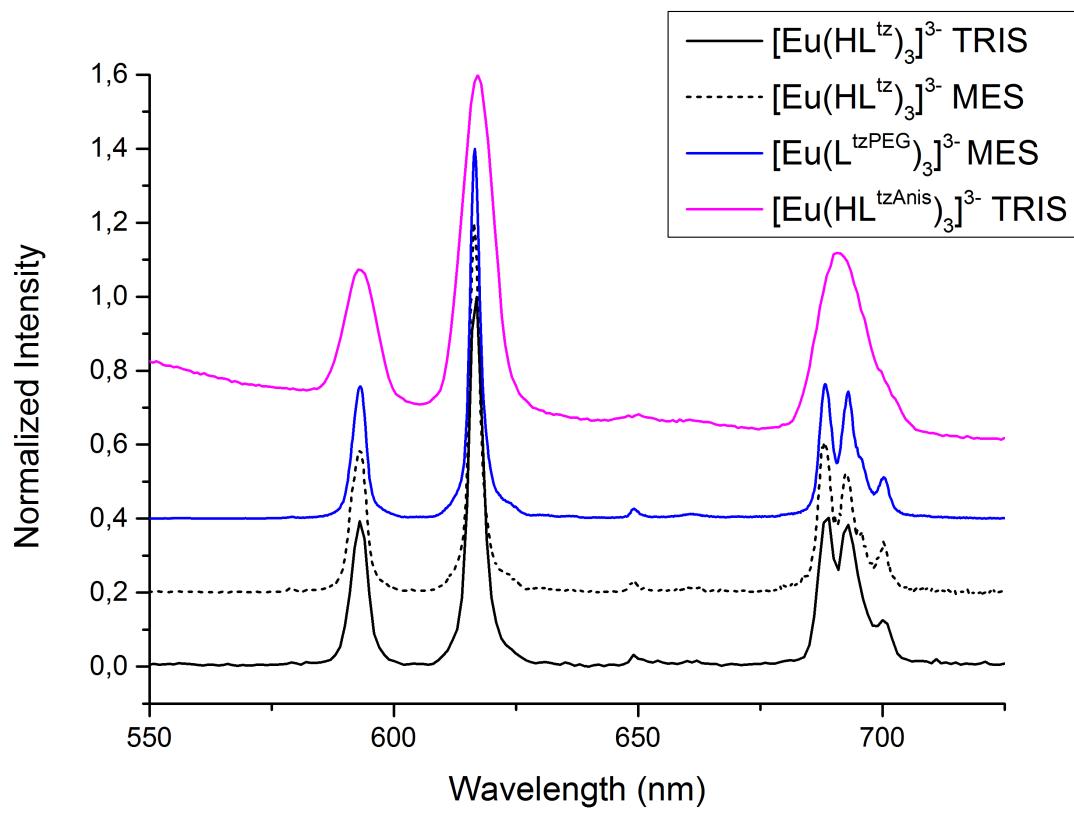


Figure S 28. Normalized emission spectra of europium complexes of  $\text{L}^{\text{tz}}$ ,  $\text{L}^{\text{tzPEG}}$  and  $\text{L}^{\text{tzAnis}}$  in MES/TRIS buffer.

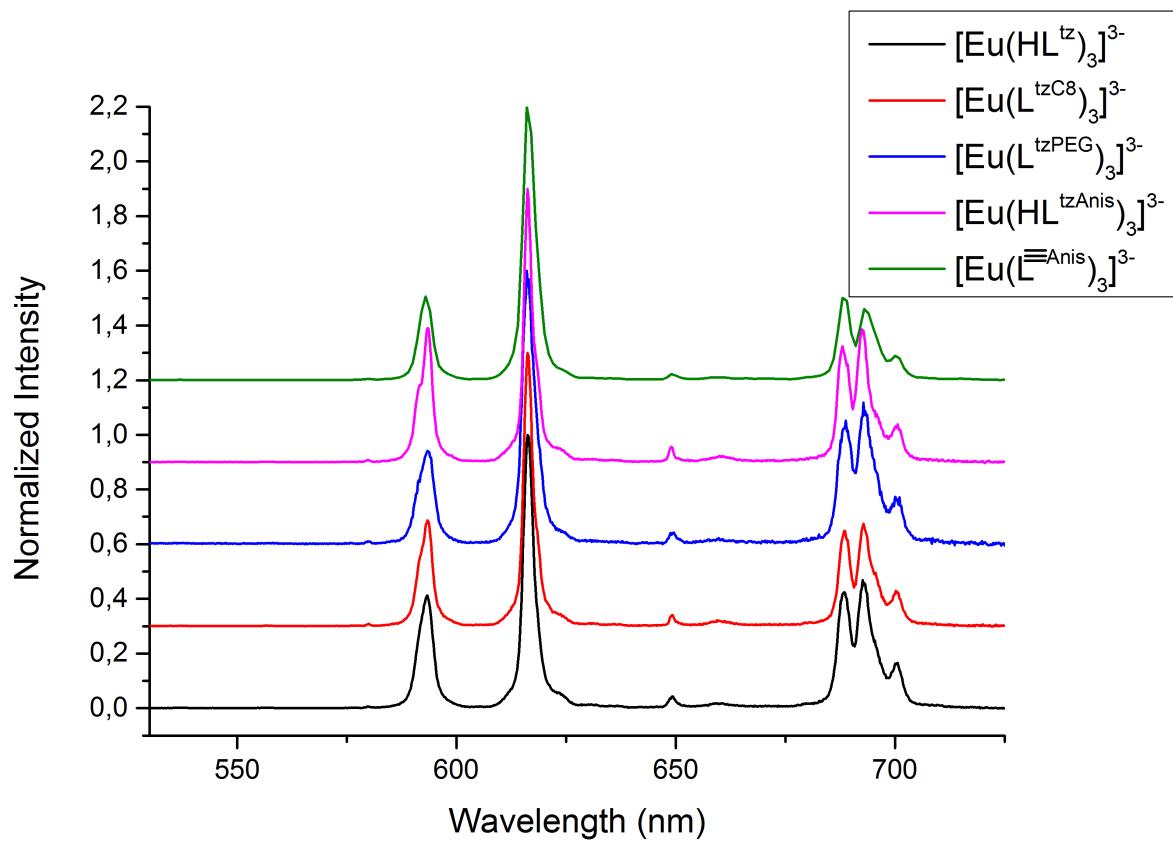


Figure S 29. Normalized emission spectra of the europium complexes of all the ligands in solid state.

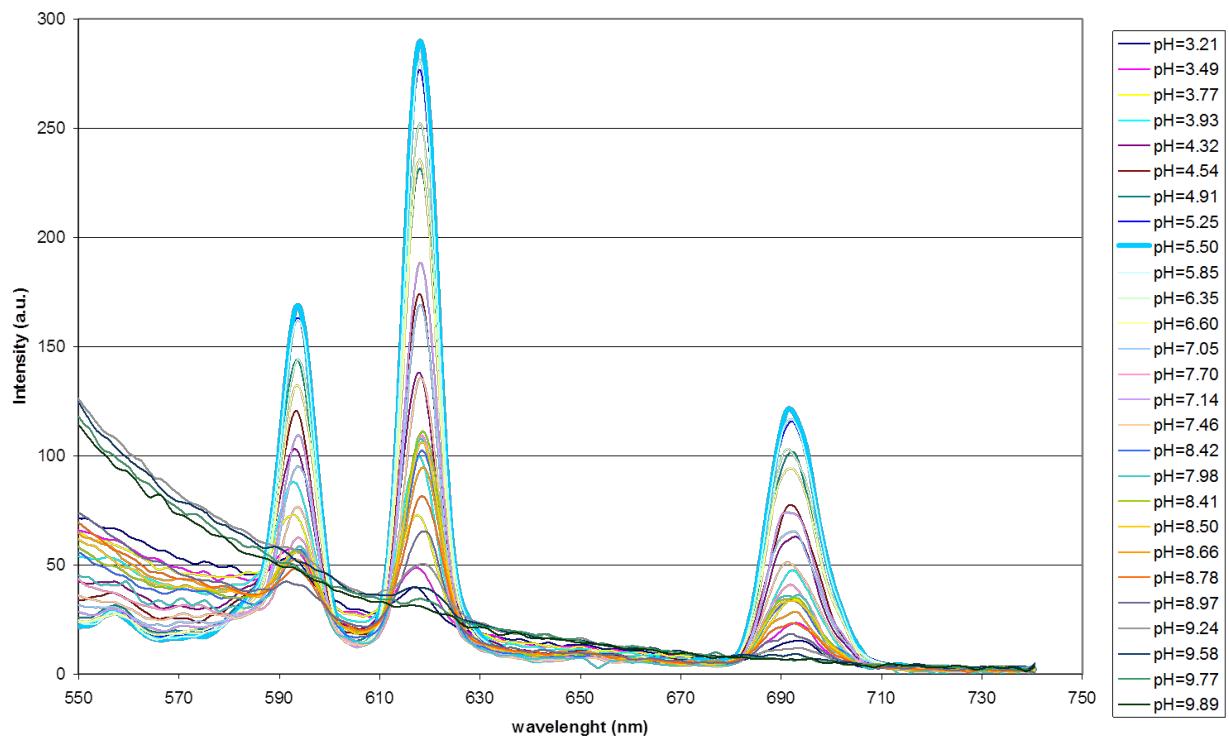


Figure S 30. Emission spectra of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{HL}^{\text{tz}})_3][\text{Et}_3\text{NH}]_3$  in water as a function of pH ( $2.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$  M,  $I = 1\text{M}$  KCl).