

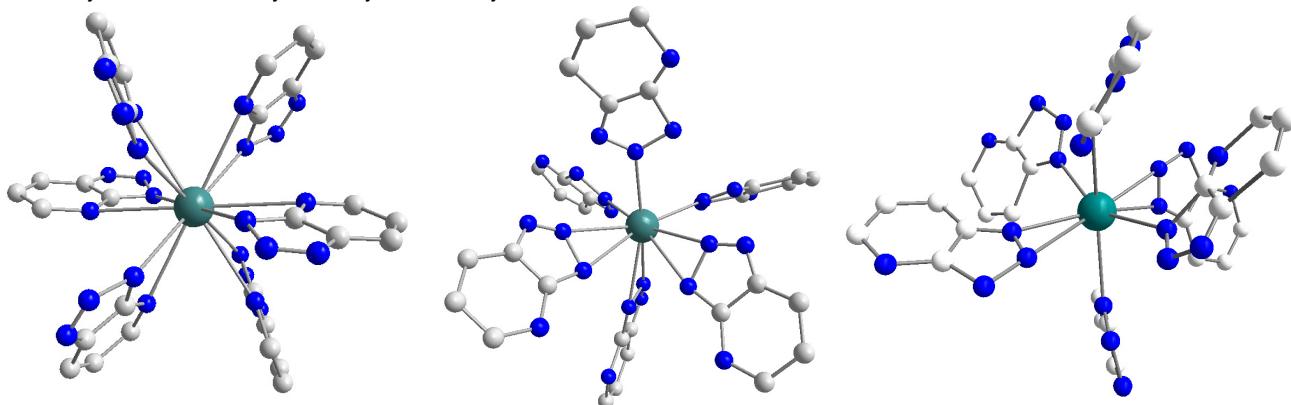
## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Triazolopyridines as ligands: structural diversity in iron(II), cobalt(II), nickel(II) and copper(II) complexes of 3-(2-pyridyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridine ( $L^{10}$ ) and spin crossover in $[Fe^{II}(L^{10})_2(NCS)_2]$

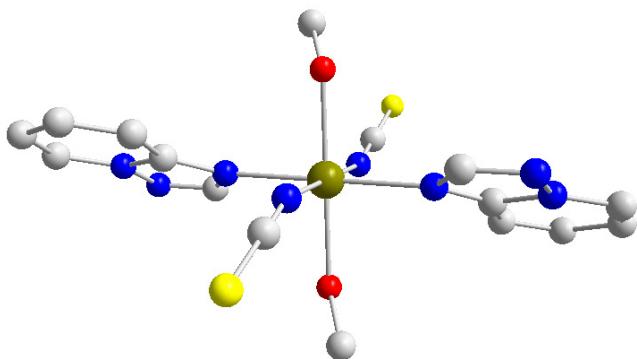
**Julia Klingele,<sup>a</sup> Dominik Kaase,<sup>a</sup> Jakob Hilgert,<sup>a</sup> Gunther Steinfeld,<sup>a</sup> Marco H. Klingele<sup>a</sup> and Jochen Lach<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Institut für Anorganische und Analytische Chemie, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Albertstr. 21, D-79104 Freiburg, Germany; E-mail: julia.klingele@ac.uni-freiburg.de; Fax: +49-(0)761-203-6001.

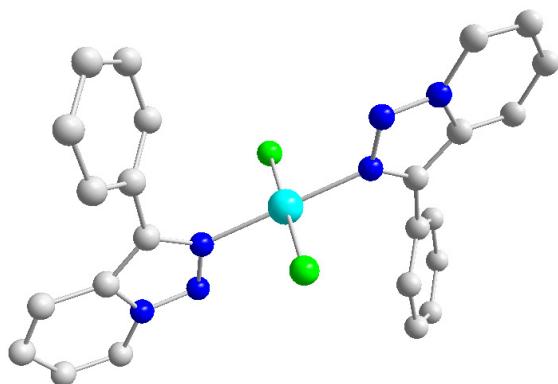
<sup>b</sup> Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Universität Leipzig, Johannisallee 29, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany.



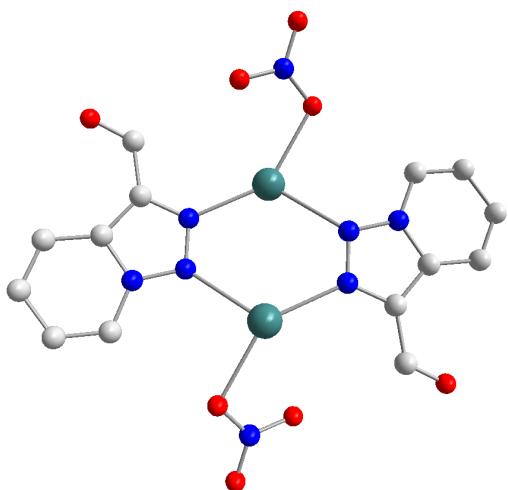
**Fig. S1.** Views of the three different coordination environments ( $N_{12}$ ,  $N_9$  and  $N_8$ ) found in  $[Eu^{II}(II)_2]$  (**1**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



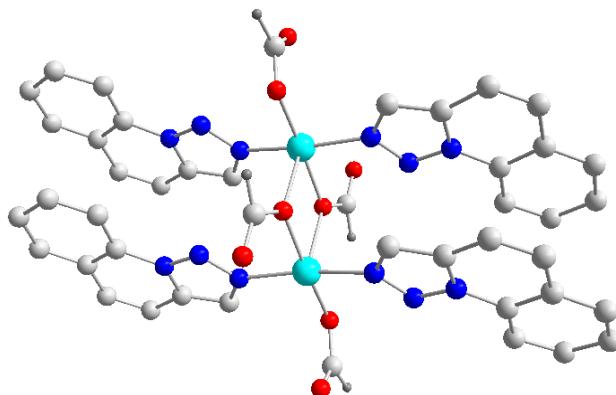
**Fig. S2.** View of the molecular structure of  $[Fe^{II}(IV)_2(NCS)_2(MeOH)_2]$  (**2**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



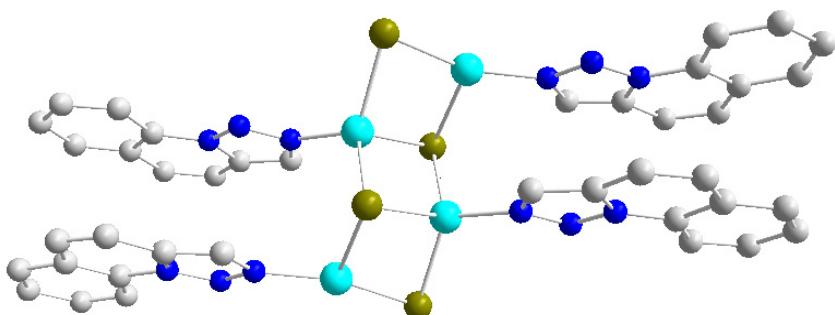
**Fig. S3.** View of the molecular structure of  $[Cu^{II}(L^1)_2Cl_2]$  (**3**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



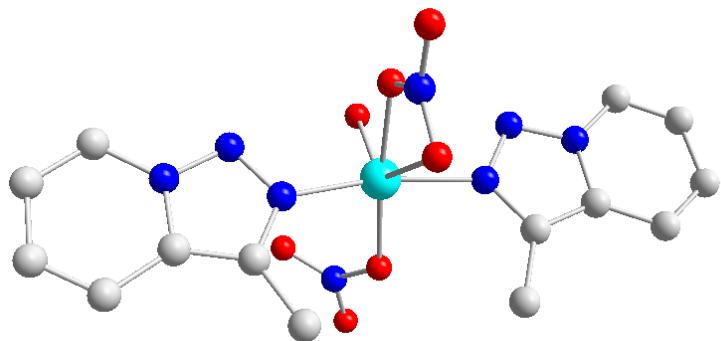
**Fig. S4.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Ag}^{\text{I}}_2(\text{L}^{\text{2}})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (**4**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



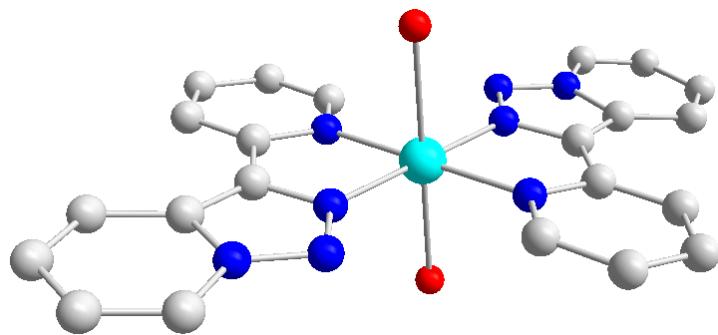
**Fig. S5.** View of the molecular structure of  $\{[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{\text{3}})_2(\text{HCO}_2)\}_2(\mu\text{-HCO}_2)_2\} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**5**). Hydrogen atoms, except those of the HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> co-ligands, and solvate molecules have been omitted for clarity.



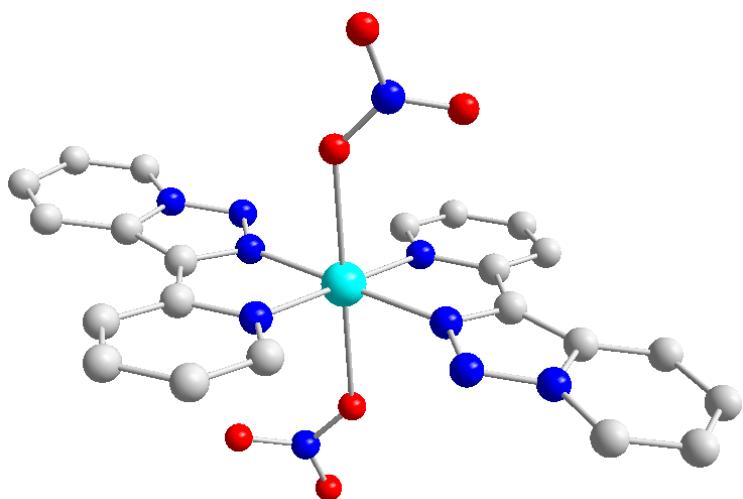
**Fig. S6.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}_4(\text{L}^{\text{3}})_4(\mu\text{-Br})_2(\mu_3\text{-Br})_2]$  (**6**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



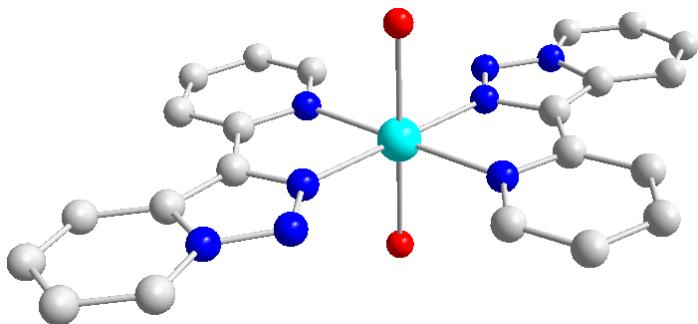
**Fig. S7.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^4)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  (**7**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



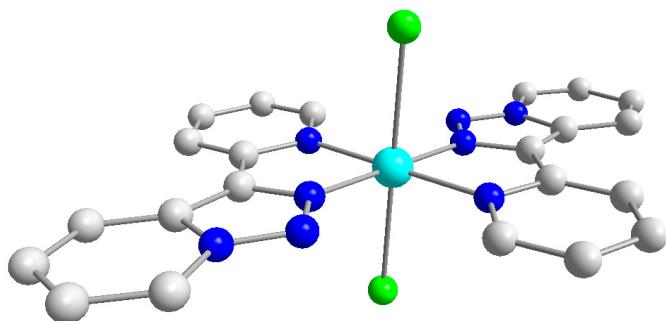
**Fig. S8.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$  (**8**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



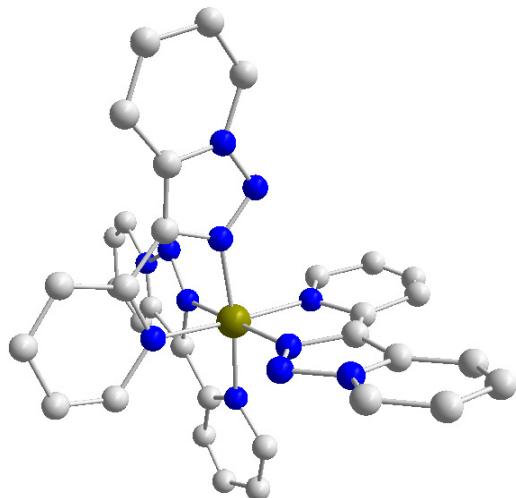
**Fig. S9.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$  (**9**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



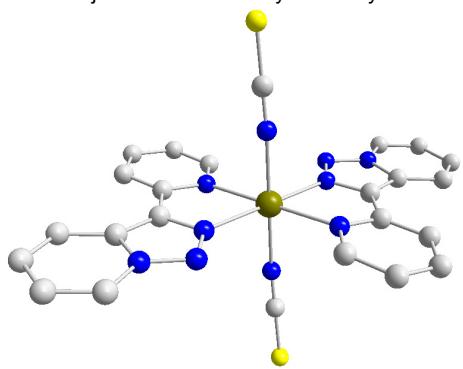
**Fig. S10.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**10**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



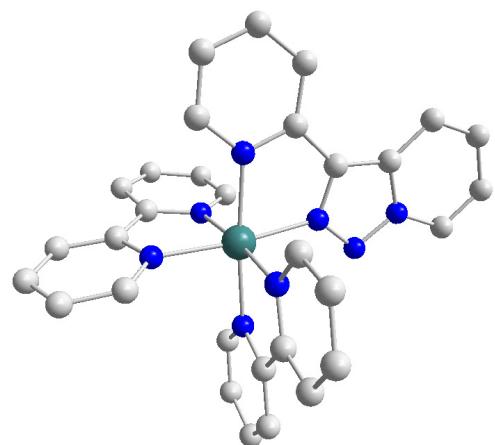
**Fig. S11.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{MeOH}\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdot\text{HCl}$  (**11**). Hydrogen atoms and solvate molecules have been omitted for clarity.



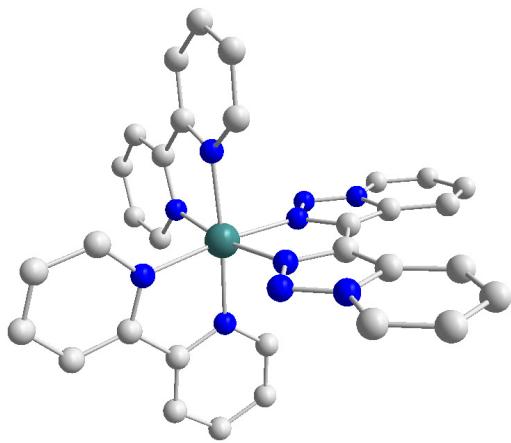
**Fig. S12.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_3](\text{BF}_4)_2$  (**12**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



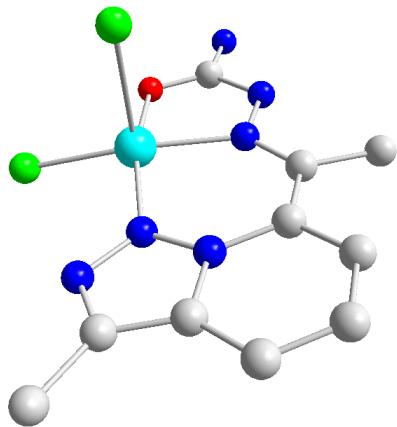
**Fig. S13.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)_2(\text{NCS})_2] \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$  (**13**). Hydrogen atoms and solvate molecules have been omitted for clarity.



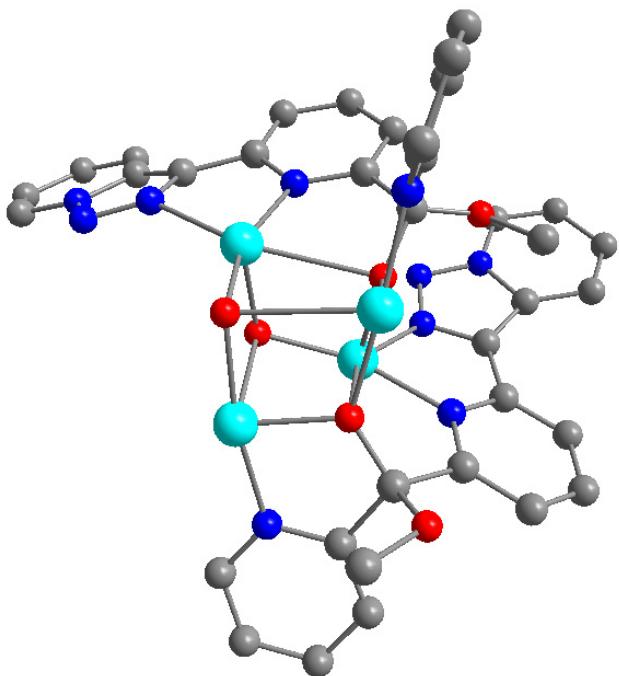
**Fig. S14.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)(\text{bpy})_2](\text{PF}_6)_2$  (**14**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



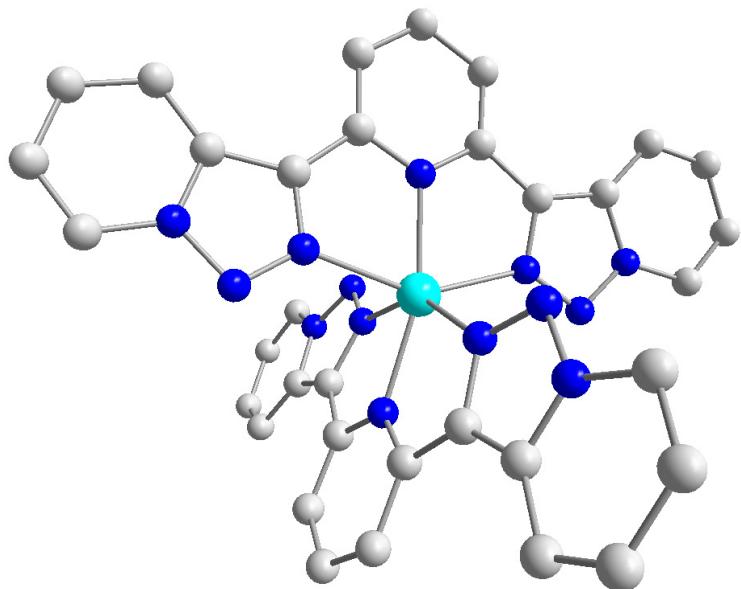
**Fig. S15.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^6)(\text{bpy})_2](\text{PF}_6)_2$  (**15**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



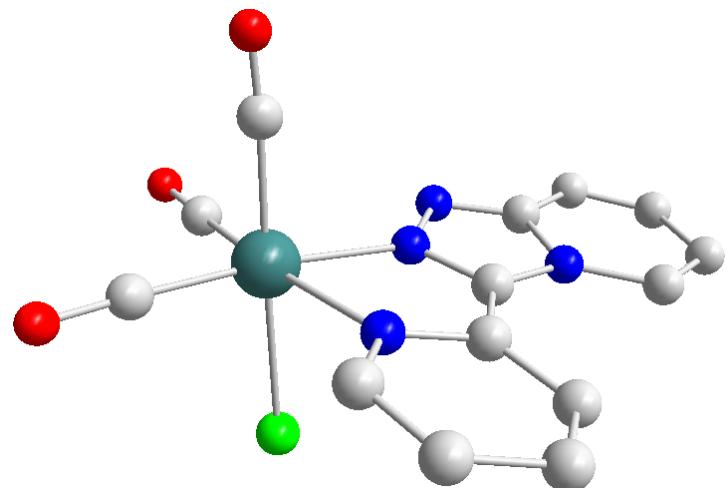
**Fig. S16.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^7)\text{Cl}_2] \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (16). Hydrogen atoms and solvate molecules have been omitted for clarity.



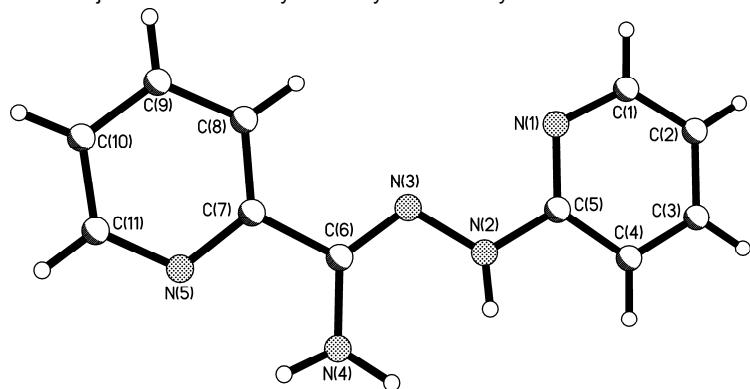
**Fig. S17.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $\{[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^8)]_4\}(\text{NO}_3)_4 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (17). Only two of the four ligands  $\text{L}^8$  are shown. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



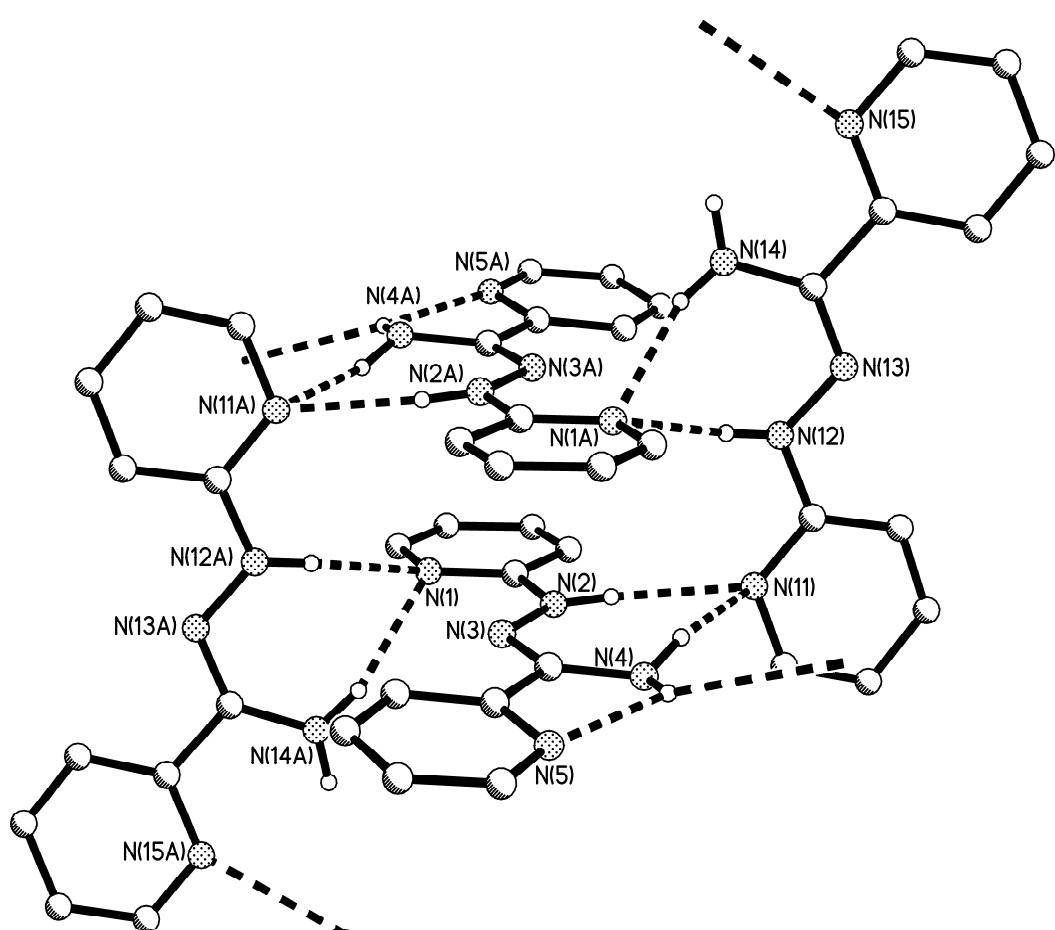
**Fig. S18.** View of the molecular structure of the complex cation of  $[Zn^{II}(L^9)_2](ClO_4)_2 \cdot 0.5\text{MeCN}$  (**18**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



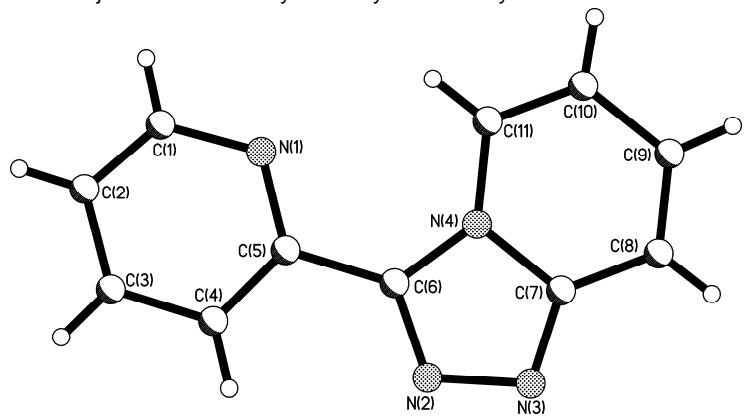
**Fig. S19.** View of the molecular structure of  $[Re^I(L^{10})(CO)_3Cl]$  (**19**). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.



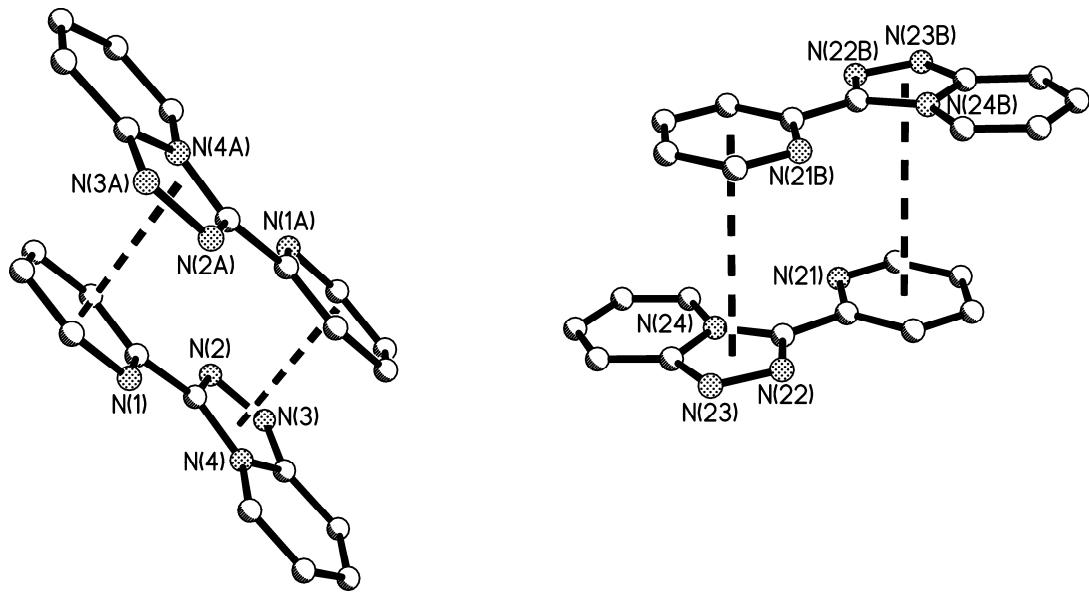
**Fig. S20.** View of the molecular structure of *N*-(2-pyridylamino)-2-pyridineamidine (**XV**).



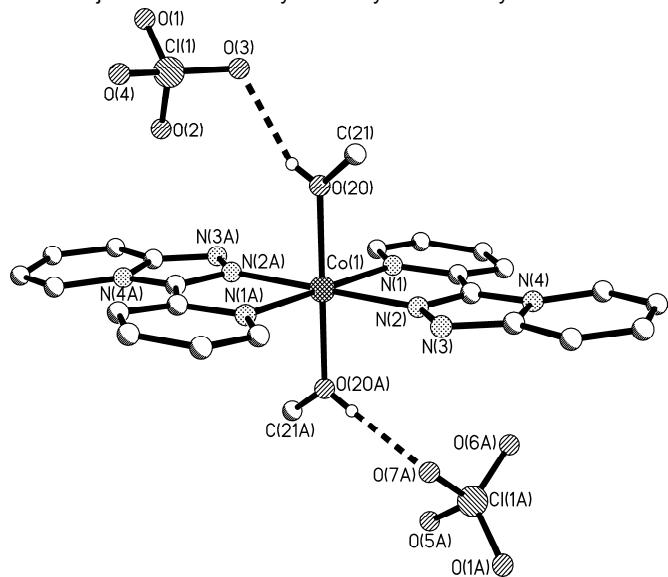
**Fig. S21.** Hydrogen bonding in the crystal structure of *N*-(2-pyridylamino)-2-pyridineamidine (**XV**). Selected distances [Å]: N(1)···H–N(12A) 3.007, N(1)···H–N(14A) 3.041, N(2)–H···N(11) 3.011, N(4)–H···N(11) 3.045, N(4)–H···N(5) 2.641, N(4)–H···N(15B) 3.350. Symmetry operations used to generate equivalent atoms: (A)  $-x+1, -y+1, -z$ ; (B)  $x, -y+1.5, z+0.5$ .



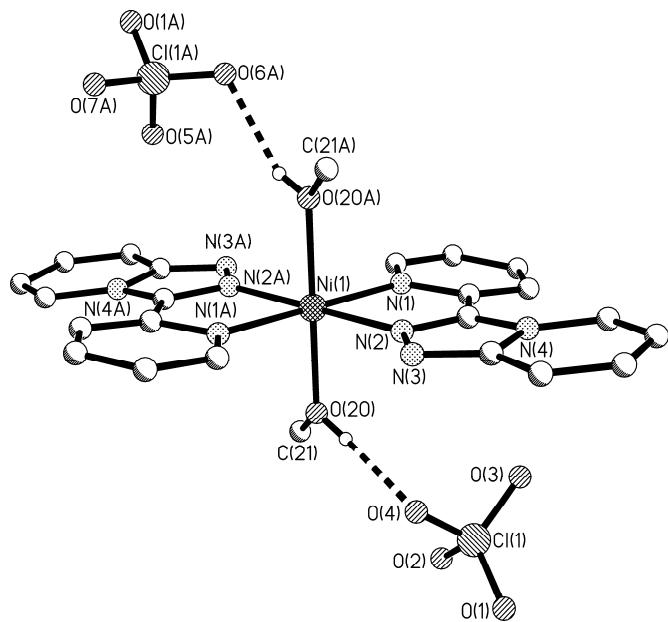
**Fig. S22.** View of the molecular structure of 3-(2-pyridyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridine (**L**<sup>10</sup>).



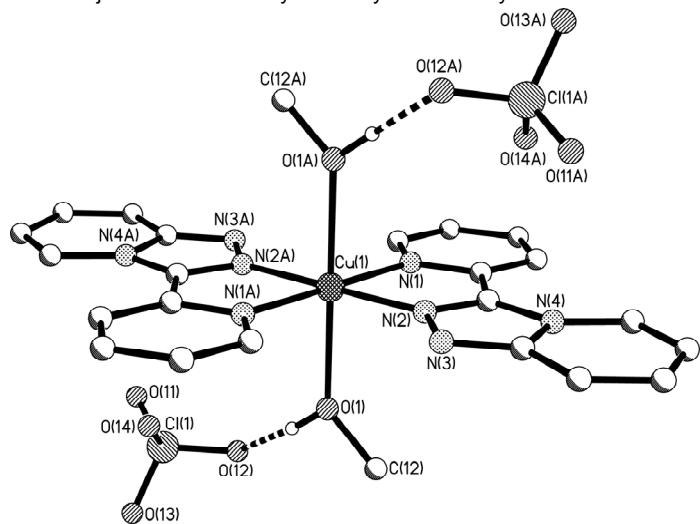
**Fig. S23.**  $\pi-\pi$  Stacking in the crystal structure of 3-(2-pyridyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*]pyridine (**L**<sup>10</sup>). Selected distances [Å]: cent<N(1)/C(1)/C(2)/C(3)/C(4)/C(5)>...cent<N(2A)/N(3A)/N(4A)/C(6A)/C(7A)> 3.387, cent<N(21)/C(21)/C(22)/C(23)/C(24)/C(25)>...cent<N(22B)/N(23B)/N(24B)/C(26B)/C(27B)> 3.712. Symmetry operations used to generate equivalent atoms: (A) -x +1, -y, -z+1; (B) -x+2, -y+2, -z.



**Fig. S24.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{10})_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (20). Hydrogen atoms, except those of the hydroxyl groups of the MeOH co-ligands, have been omitted for clarity. The hydrogen-bonded  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  counterion is disordered over two positions with site occupancy factors of 0.50 [ $\text{O}(2)-\text{O}(4)$ ] and 0.50 [ $\text{O}(5)-\text{O}(7)$ ], twirling around the  $\text{Cl}(1)-\text{O}(11)$  bond. Selected distances [ $\text{\AA}$ ]:  $\text{Co}(1)-\text{N}(1)$  2.139(2),  $\text{Co}(1)-\text{N}(2)$  2.094(2),  $\text{Co}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  2.093(2),  $\text{O}(3)\cdots\text{O}(20)$  2.740,  $\text{O}(7\text{A})\cdots\text{O}(20\text{A})$  2.806. Selected angles [ $^\circ$ ]:  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{N}(2)$  77.06(7),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  91.95(8),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{N}(2\text{A})$  102.94(7),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{O}(20\text{A})$  88.05(8),  $\text{N}(2)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  91.30(8),  $\text{N}(2)-\text{Co}(1)-\text{O}(20\text{A})$  88.70(8). Symmetry operation used to generate equivalent atoms: (A)  $-x, -y+2, -z$ .



**Fig. S25.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{10})_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (21). Hydrogen atoms, except those of the hydroxyl groups of the MeOH co-ligands, have been omitted for clarity. The hydrogen-bonded  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  counterion is disordered over two positions with site occupancy factors of 0.59 [ $\text{O}(2)-\text{O}(4)$ ] and 0.41 [ $\text{O}(5)-\text{O}(7)$ ], twirling around the  $\text{Cl}(1)-\text{O}(11)$  bond. Selected distances [ $\text{\AA}$ ]:  $\text{Ni}(1)-\text{N}(1)$  2.108(2),  $\text{Ni}(1)-\text{N}(2)$  2.070(2),  $\text{Ni}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  2.052(2),  $\text{O}(4)\cdots\text{O}(20)$  2.857,  $\text{O}(6\text{A})\cdots\text{O}(20\text{A})$  2.747. Selected angles [ $^\circ$ ]:  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{N}(2)$  79.28(8),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  89.88(9),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{N}(2\text{A})$  100.72(8),  $\text{N}(1)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{O}(20\text{A})$  90.12(9),  $\text{N}(2)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{O}(20)$  88.81(9),  $\text{N}(2)-\text{Ni}(1)-\text{O}(20\text{A})$  91.19(9). Symmetry operation used to generate equivalent atoms: (A)  $-x, -y, -z$ .



**Fig. S26.** View of the molecular structure of  $[\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^{10})_2(\text{MeOH})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$  (**22**). Hydrogen atoms, except those of the hydroxyl groups of the MeOH co-ligands, have been omitted for clarity. Selected distances [ $\text{\AA}$ ]: Cu(1)–N(1) 2.057(3), Cu(1)–N(2) 1.984(3), Cu(1)–O(1) 2.347(3), O(1)…O(12) 2.844. Selected angles [ $^\circ$ ]: N(1)–Cu(1)–N(2) 79.62(13), N(1)–Cu(1)–O(1) 90.45(12), N(1)–Cu(1)–N(2A) 100.38(13), N(1)–Cu(1)–O(1A) 89.55(12), N(2)–Cu(1)–O(1) 89.92(12), N(2)–Cu(1)–O(1A) 90.08(12). Symmetry operation used to generate equivalent atoms: (A)  $-x$ ,