

# PRESS KIT



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF  
BIOTECHNOLOGY

The New **EFB**  
Serving Biotechnologists **throughout Europe**



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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF  
BIOTECHNOLOGY

## European Federation of Biotechnology

*Serving Biotechnologists throughout Europe and beyond*

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## 1. About the EFB

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF  
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# European Federation of Biotechnology

*Serving Biotechnologists throughout Europe and beyond*

## About the EFB

Established by European scientists in 1978, the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB) is Europe's non-profit federation of National Biotechnology Associations, Learned Societies, Universities, Scientific Institutes, Biotech Companies and individual biotechnologists working to promote biotechnology throughout Europe and beyond.

The mission of EFB is to promote the **safe, sustainable** and **beneficial** use of the life sciences, to promote research and innovation at the cutting edge of biotechnology, to provide a forum for interdisciplinary and international cooperation, to **improve scientific education** and to facilitate an **informed dialogue** between scientists and the public.

With **225 Institutional members** from across Europe and **5,000 personal members** from 56 countries, the EFB has **13 Regional Branch Offices** in Europe to support its activities in the various areas of biotechnology covered by the Federation.

The **EFB Central Office** (ECO) is located in Barcelona, Spain. Membership administration, organization of Executive Board meetings and General Assemblies, website management and organization of the European Congresses on Biotechnology are some of the main responsibilities of ECO.



## 2. The Activities

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### The Activities

The main activities of the European Federation of Biotechnology are to:

- Promote international and interdisciplinary cooperation throughout Europe and beyond
- Foster collaboration between academia, research and industry
- Stimulate innovation & technology transfer
- Organize workshops, meetings and the biennial European Congress on Biotechnology
- Promote education and training
- Improve understanding of safety issues in biotechnology
- Promote public understanding of biotechnology
- Prepare position papers, briefing papers, reviews and reports
- Maintain good contacts with and advise the European Commission
- Disseminate information on EC funding opportunities and science policy issues
- Promote and defend the sustainable and beneficial use of biotechnology

The EFB includes **11 Sections** and **6 Task Groups**, covering a broad spectrum of fields and topics in biotechnology. These forums are keystones of EFB as they initiate and organize most of the EFB's activities.

#### EFB Sections

1. Section on Biochemical Engineering Science (ESBES)
2. Section on Microbial Physiology
3. Section on Applied Functional Genomics
4. Section on Green Biotechnology
5. Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB)
6. Section on Environmental Biotechnology
7. Section on Biodiversity
8. Section on Medicines Development
9. Section on Nanobiotechnology
10. Associated Section on Pharma Medical Biotechnology (EAPB)
11. Associated Section YEBN (Young European Biotech Network)

#### EFB Task Groups

1. Task Group on Education and Mobility
2. Task Group on European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES)
3. Task Group on International Relations (TGIR)
4. Task Group on Innovation (TG INN)
5. Task Group on Safety in Biotechnology
6. Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology



### 3. Biographies

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## Executive Biographies

### EFB President, Em. Prof. Marc Van Montagu

Marc Van Montagu was full Professor and director of the Laboratory of Genetics at the faculty of Sciences, Ghent University and scientific director of the Genetics Department of the Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology (VIB). He was a part-time professor at the biology, nucleic acid chemistry, and virology. He was Scientific Director and member of the board of Directors of plant Genetic systems Inc. (Belgium).



Together with his colleague Prof. Jeff Schell, Marc Van Montagu discovered the gene transfer mechanism between *Agrobacterium* and plants, which resulted in the development of methods to alter *Agrobacterium* into an efficient delivery system for gene engineering in plants. He developed plant molecular genetics, in particular molecular mechanisms for cell proliferation and differentiation and response to abiotic stresses (high light, ozone, cold, salt and drought) and constructed transgenic crops (tobacco, rape seed, corn) resistant to insect pest and tolerant to novel herbicides. His work with poplar trees resulted in engineering of trees with improved pulping qualities.

He has received numerous outstanding awards for his pioneering work, including the prestigious "Japan Prize". He has been a foreign associate of the National Academy of Science (USA) since 1986 and the agricultural Academy of Russia and France. He holds 6 Doctor Honoris Causa Degrees. In 1990 he was granted the title of "Baron" by Baudouin 1, King of the Belgians.

### EFB Vice President, Prof. Charlie Bryce

Professor Bryce is Head of School of Life Sciences at Napier University, Edinburgh. At the present time he is Chairman of the EFB Task Group on Education & Mobility in addition to being Vice President of the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB), Secretary General of the European Association for Higher Education in Biotechnology (the body which promotes and oversees the operation of the Eurodoctorate in Biotechnology scheme) and Visiting Professor at Zhengzhou University in China.



In the last thirty years he has published in excess of ninety refereed research publications, about eighty non-refereed publications and designed and produced about thirty teaching packages in a wide variety of media formats. His research interests cover such topics as protein structural biochemistry, enzymology, environmental pollution, biotechnology, bioremediation, site-directed mutagenesis, educational technology and computer applications.

For the last ten years he has worked extensively with a number of colleagues in India, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Turkey, USA and a number of countries in Europe on a variety of issues relating to environmental pollution, curriculum development, teaching innovations and manpower and training strategies in biotechnology. He has been invited on numerous occasions to deliver Keynote Addresses and Lectures at national and international Conferences.



### 3. Biographies

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#### EFB Vice President, Prof. Bernard Rentier

Bernard Rentier is Professor of Virology and Immunology at the University of Liège, of which he is Vice-Rector. Since its creation in 1991, he chairs BioLiege, the association of academic and corporate biotechnologists of the Liege area in Belgium. He also chairs Eurovar, a foundation for the study of varicella (chicken pox) and zoster in Europe.



Chairman of the Board of two biotech companies, he has created Gamma (antibodies, diagnostic kits, dipsticks) in 1983 and Probiox (DNA chips for monitoring oxidative stress) in 2001. He is also on the Board of the Belgian Bioindustries Association (BBA).

#### EFB Vice President, Prof. Brian Clark

Brian Clark is Prof. of Biostructural Chemistry at the University of Århus in Denmark. The department, which he founded in 1974, merged into the new Department of Molecular Biology in 1996. He was a member of the scientific staff of the British Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology from 1964-74 working in the Division of Molecular Genetics co-headed by Francis Crick and Sydney Brenner. His expertise involves decoding of the initiation of protein synthesis and the structural elucidation of transfer RNA. His current research interests centre on relation structure and function and identifying functional protein in functional genomics. Clark also advises on protein engineering and molecular gerontology.



He is former President of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Council, member of the BankInvest advisory board, past chairman of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) and Chairman of TGIR (Task Group on International Relations) of the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB).

#### EFB Vice President, Prof. Jeff Cole

Jeff Cole is Professor of Microbial Physiology and Biochemistry at the University of Birmingham and Deputy Editor in Chief of FEMS Microbiology Letters. His major scientific experiences include regulation of anaerobic bacterial metabolism, nitrate and nitrite reduction to ammonia, bacterial electron transfer pathways and pathogenicity of bacteria.



#### Major other affiliations

- >> Deputy Editor in Chief, FEMS Microbiology Letters
- >> Member of the Society for General Microbiology and American Society for Microbiology
- >> Secretary, British Coordinating Committee for Biotechnology



### 3. Biographies

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#### EFB Secretary General, Christian Suojanen

Christian Suojanen is Secretary General of the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB), and a strategic advisor on biotech sector initiatives, new ventures, venture capital and business development. He maintains a particular focus on industrial biotechnology and chairs the new pan-European Industrial Biotech & Finance Forum initiative. The EFB is the pan-European federation of national and cross-national learned societies, universities, institutes, corporations, companies and individuals in the biotech sector, with over 4,600 members and 225 institutional members across Europe and worldwide (see <http://www.efb-central.org>). Prior to his appointment as Secretary General of the EFB in March 2005 he was active as an independent consultant and advisor to new ventures and biotech initiatives, and to Europe Unlimited, the leading pan-European provider of investment and partnering initiatives in support of entrepreneurial tech and biotech companies and entrepreneurship. Previously an Executive Director of Europe Unlimited, which he joined in 1999, as Director of Business Development he created, trained and managed the sales team and focused on pan-European business development, particularly in developing new business activities in the areas of biotech finance and entrepreneurship, working extensively with leading venture capital funds, legal and consulting firms, European, national and regional development agencies, and entrepreneurs across Europe.



He holds degrees in Business, in Political Science from Bishops University in Québec, and an M.A. in International Relations from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, where he specialized in International Political Economy. Based in Barcelona, Christian speaks English, French and Spanish. In preparation for the 2004 US elections he founded Democrats Abroad in Spain and in 12 months grew it into the 5th largest Democrats Abroad organization out of the 73 country committees worldwide. He continues to serve as Founder & Chairman of Democrats Abroad Spain and as co-Chair International Fund-Raising for the Democratic Party Committee Abroad.



## 4. The Executive Board

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### The Executive Board

The Executive Board (ExBo) has the authority to decide on all activities and operations of EFB except those that explicitly require approval by the General Assembly. The biannual meetings of ExBo are intended to set short and long term goals and approve consensual decisions about future activities of the Federation. The Executive Board consists of 32 representatives: the EFB President, 4 Vice Presidents, all Chairmen of the different EFB Sections and Task Groups, the EFB Secretary General, the Treasurer, 3 elected members from EFB Regional Branch Offices, 3 elected members from Academia and 3 elected members from Industry.

#### EFB Organization Chart (ExBo)

##### **EFB President**

Em. Prof. Marc Van Montagu

##### **EFB Vice Presidents**

Prof. Charlie Bryce

Prof. Bernard Rentier

Prof. Brian Clark

Prof. Jeff Cole

##### **EFB Secretary General**

Christian Suojanen

##### **EFB Treasurer**

Jens Sundbye

##### **Section & Task Group Chairmen**

Prof. Jeff Cole, Chairman, Section on Microbial Physiology  
Dr. Jorgen Dirach, Chairman, Section on Medicines Development  
Dr. Piet Lens, Chairman, Section on Environmental Biotechnology  
Prof. Marin Berovic, Chairman, Section on Biochemical Engineering Science  
Dr. Golbahar Pahlavan, Chairman, Section on NanoBiotechnology  
Dr. Marc Zabeau, Chairman, Section on Green Biotechnology  
Prof. Klaus Ammann, Chairman, Section on Biodiversity  
Dr. Sven Stegemann, Chairman, Associated Section on Pharma Medical Biotechnology (EAPB)  
Dr. Marco Quarta, Chairman, Associated Section on Young European Biotech Network (YEBN)  
Dr. Mike Taussig, Chairman, Section on Applied Functional Genomics  
Dr. Roland Wohlgemuth, Chairman, Section on Applied Biocatalysis  
Dr. Bo Heiden, Chairman, Task Group on Innovation (TG INN)  
Prof. David McConnell, Chairman, Task Group on European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES)  
Dr. Patrick Rudelsheim, Chairman, Task Group on Safety in Biotechnology  
Prof. Julian Kinderlerer, Chairman, Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology

##### **Elected Members**

Academia: Prof. Danilo Porro, Prof. Mathias Uhlen, Prof. Tomasz Twardowski  
Industry: Dr. Werner Wolf, Prof. Peter Silley, Dr. Carmen Vela  
Regional Branch Offices: Dr. Willi Meier, Prof. Kornel Kovacs, Prof. Francesc Gòdia  
Co-opted Academia: Prof. Manuel Carrondo, Prof. Leonardo Santi



## 5. EFB Sections

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### EFB Sections

Sections are devoted to a particular field in biotechnology and are open to all personal and institutional members of EFB. Most of EFB's 5,000 members throughout Europe and beyond currently participate in one or more EFB Sections according to their special scientific interests. Sections may decide to establish Working Groups to address selected issues.

#### Section on Medicines Development

[www.nsmf.org](http://www.nsmf.org)

The EFB Section on Medicines Development (NSMF) is a platform for all stakeholders and sciences related to development of medicines focusing on changing the paradigm of medicines development to provide safe and effective medicines to patients. NSMF is a visionary initiative aimed at improving drug development and approval in Europe by cooperation between public and private institutions.

The Medicines Development Section is involved in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) and is responsible for the Education and Training part of the initiative. IMI is a unique pan-European public and private sector collaboration between patient organisations, universities, hospitals, regulatory authorities as well as small and large biopharmaceutical and healthcare companies. The objective of IMI is to support the faster discovery and development of better medicines.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative will accelerate the discovery and development of more effective innovative medicines with fewer side effects that reach patients faster. The initiative represents a coordinated joint public and private partnership to boost Europe's biomedical R&D base, correcting the relative under-funding of biomedical R&D in Europe compared to other regions of the world ([www.imi-europe.org](http://www.imi-europe.org)).

#### *About Medicines Development*

With the mapping of the human genome, biotechnology is of increasing importance for development of new and targeted medicines and will impact future medical practice. This calls for an optimizing of the current medicines R&D process and a re-thinking of the process. It is for this reason that the Section on Medicines Development was established in 2003. This Section covers all aspects of Medicines Development (which today all will involve biotech in one way or other) as well as all processes within the R&D cycle from idea through research, applied research, preclinical, clinical, regulatory and post-marketing follow-up.

#### Section on Biochemical Engineering Science (ESBES) [www.esbesweb.org](http://www.esbesweb.org)

The European Federation of Biotechnology established its first Section, the Section on Biochemical Engineering Science (ESBES), in August 1995 by interlinking the Working Parties on Bioreactor Performance, Downstream Processing, and Measurement and Control of the European Federation of Biotechnology. ESBES organizes activities that encourage integration and interaction such as:

- Bi-annual congresses on Biochemical Engineering
- Courses
- Exchanges of PhDs, Post-doctoral fellows and lecturers between European laboratories
- Workshops on new developments

#### *About Biochemical Engineering Science*

Biochemical Engineering Science is an applied science discipline comprising elements from the BioSciences as well as from the defining disciplines of Engineering Science, namely Physics and Mathematics, used to create models for Biological Systems in both small and large scale and to solve



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these models numerically in order to guide both experimental work and design of processes. Special topics of Biochemical Engineering Science include Analysis of Bioreactors and of Downstream Process equipment in order to optimize the yield of the desired products and of the productivity of the system. Thus, Biochemical Engineering Science can also lead to better control systems through an understanding of the systems dynamics, and through incorporation of molecular tools on a quantitative basis it may lead to the discovery and design of completely new processes or products for the Bio Industry.

#### **Section on Biodiversity**      [www.efb-central.org/Biodiversity/homepage.html](http://www.efb-central.org/Biodiversity/homepage.html)

The Section on Biodiversity, an initiative of the European Federation of Biotechnology, was founded on 27 February 2003. The main task of this section is to investigate and debate the impact of Biotechnology on Biodiversity.

Priority topics of the EFB Section on Biodiversity are:

- Benefits and threats from GMO's
- How can the view on Biodiversity help in research and development?
- Enhance the knowledge about soil microbiology and agricultural biodiversity
- Biodiversity and Population Genetics: A wide field of research
- Active participation in the development and outlining of research programmes on an European level.

#### ***About Biodiversity / Biotechnology***

Many opinions are around on whether biotechnology has a negative impact on biodiversity or whether it might have positive effects. Many people who worry about the impact of biotechnology on biodiversity follow the opinions of opponents of green biotechnology without knowing the facts. But there are also many who think that biotechnology could help to enhance biodiversity and specifically in conservation matters.

Many aspects of negative impacts on biodiversity are caused by agriculture per se, including all kinds of management methods. It is precisely agricultural biotechnology which could help to remedy some of the detrimental impacts of agriculture (besides other management methods as well).

#### **Section on Nanobiotechnology**      [www.efb-central.org/nanotobio](http://www.efb-central.org/nanotobio)

The main focus of the EFB Section on Nanobiotechnology in collaboration with the European Network of Excellence Nano2Life is:

- Creating the first technological roadmap for nanobiotechnology
- Identifying the key bottlenecks that need to be overcome in nanobiotechnology
- Promoting the uptake of nanobiotechnology by relevant industrial sectors
- Founding the first European Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects Board (ELSA) in the field of nanobiotechnology
- Training young scientists in complementary cross-cutting disciplines required in nanobiotechnology.

The Section aims at reduction in European nanobiotechnology, interfacing the world of life sciences and nanotechnology, making Europe an international leader in nanobiotechnology, translating nanobiotechnology into economic benefits and educating the society about nanobiotechnology.



## 5. EFB Sections

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### ***About Nanobiotechnology***

Nanobiotechnology is a broad field of knowledge and techniques based on the convergence of scale between micro and nanotechnology, and basic components of life, cells and biomolecules (DNA/proteins). The conjunction between nanotechnology and biology is bidirectional: nanotechnology brings new materials and tools to better study and understand biological processes at the molecular level and at the nanoscale. Biological self-assembly and natural construction concepts are revolutionizing the possibilities of structuring matter.

**Section on Microbial Physiology**      [www.tu-berlin.de/biotec/mibi/AG\\_Lang/efb/](http://www.tu-berlin.de/biotec/mibi/AG_Lang/efb/)

The EFB Section on Microbial Physiology was founded on 17 August 1997, during an EFB General Assembly. One of its main activities is the organization of high-level scientific symposia. Major features of these activities are:

- they are interdisciplinary, bringing together molecular microbiologists, geneticists, environmental and industrial biotechnologists and chemical engineers;
- they are truly international, typically attended by participants from across the world;
- all sectors are represented: industry, academia, research institutes and government agencies.

Meetings are organized at 2 to 4 year intervals around a series of focused themes that include recombinant protein production, analysis of microbial physiology at the single cell level, microbial response to environmental stress, bacterial electron transfer processes and their genetic regulation, and the physiology of yeast and filamentous fungi. Other activities include participation in short courses, drafting of position papers for the European Commission, and provision of expertise for European governmental agencies.

### ***About Microbial Physiology***

Microbial growth and metabolism play key roles in all of the major geochemical cycles of Planet Earth, consuming and replenishing carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and sulphur in the biosphere. Microbes can be extremely beneficial. They are essential tools in environmental biotechnology, biodegradation, composting, the supply of fresh drinking water, the safe disposal of sewage, and in food, wine and beer production. But they can also cause disease and food deterioration. Microbial physiology is the study of microbial structure and function, in particular, how microbial activity responds to changes in the environment. It is therefore the key to controlling detrimental aspects of microbes, and to exploiting them for the good of the human race.

**Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB)**      [www.esabweb.org](http://www.esabweb.org)

The mission of the Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) is to promote the development of Applied Biocatalysis throughout Europe. Applied Biocatalysis is the development through science and engineering of useful biological catalysts and their commercial applications.

The aims of the Section are to:

- Increase the understanding of the principles of biocatalysis, in particular its commercial applications, improve the general biocatalysis technology level and the use of biocatalysis.
- Take initiatives in areas of growing scientific and industrial interest and importance in the field of applied biocatalysis.



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- Identify novel developments in basic and applied aspects of biocatalysis and bring them towards a broad audience of scientists, engineers and policy makers, active in the diverse fields of biotechnology.
- Identify key topics which may be rate-limiting for the development of scientific and technological capabilities in applied biocatalysis and take steps to stimulate these areas.
- Improve the knowledge among engineers (and other scientists) about application of biocatalysis.
- Promote education and training in Applied Biocatalysis, including the translation of the developments in biocatalysis also to the consumer.
- Improve the public perception of Applied Biocatalysis and promote international co-operation, in particular, with Eastern Europe.

#### ***About Applied Biocatalysis***

The EFB section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) is active in the field of Industrial Biotechnology. Industrial Biotechnology is a technology with a particularly broad application potential in a variety of industries such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, the food and feed industry, agro-industry, textile industry, energy sector, etc. These industries increasingly rely on biocatalytic processes to perform a wide range of reactions, improve the cost-effectiveness of existing processes and develop new products and applications. The use of biocatalysis can have significant performance benefits compared to conventional chemical technology such as high reaction selectivity, higher reaction rate, increased conversion efficiency, improved product purity, lowered energy consumption and a significant decrease in waste generation. The processes of industrial biotechnology will often rely on renewable resources as a raw material and typically lead to significant ecological and economical benefits.

#### **Section on Applied Functional Genomics**

The EFB Section on Applied Functional Genomics was founded during the First European Symposium on Applied Genome Research in Brussels, November 26-27, 1998.

The activities of the Section include organization of meetings, workshops, round tables, brainstorming sessions and any other activities to ensure that expertise in the field of Applied Genome Research is optimized and available to support all facets of Biotechnology in Europe (Health, Agro-food, Environment, Chemicals).

#### **Associated Section on Pharma Medical Biotechnology (EAPB) [www.eapb.org](http://www.eapb.org)**

The Associated Section on Pharma Medical Biotechnology of the EFB is a professional association dedicated to the advancement of biotechnology in pharmaceutical sciences, specifically as applied to industrial materials, processes, products and their associated problems. Its members constitute scientists employed in industry, government and university laboratories, biotech companies and scientific organizations.

The primary aim of the EAPB is the promotion of pharma biotechnology as an independent multidisciplinary science in all European countries, especially promoting the cooperation and scientific exchange between the various disciplines contributing to pharma biotechnology.



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The EAPB Section contributes towards the coordination and harmonisation of pharma biotechnological activities and promotes the establishment of a pharma biotechnological network in Europe, especially within the framework of European programs.

#### **Associated Section YEBN (Young European Biotech Network) [www.yebn.org](http://www.yebn.org)**

Biotechnology is a key factor for sustainable development of our future. The Young European Biotech Network (YEBN) is a non-profit organisation that aims to strengthen the cooperation among European Countries in order to promote a responsible and dynamic community of young scientists and increase the competitiveness of the European Life Science sector worldwide.

YEBN was founded in December 2002 in Bertinoro, Italy, by four student organisations active in several European countries. Today, YEBN consists of several hundred members in 15 European countries.

Most of YEBN members are graduate or PhD students in the subject of life sciences or biotechnology.



## 6. EFB Task Groups

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### EFB Task Groups

EFB Task Groups cover topics of wide and interdisciplinary interest, international relations, education, safety in biotechnology and public perceptions of biotechnology. Membership of a Task Group is by invitation only.

#### Task Group on Safety in Biotechnology

##### **Safety first**

In addition to general safety aspects, working with living organisms entails specific concerns. Activities with hazardous organisms -- human, animal or plant pathogens - require particular measures to protect the researcher, anyone potentially exposed to the organism and the wider environment. Even if there is uncertainty or no indication that an organism poses particular threats, proportionate precautionary measures are implemented. The Task Group aims to improve biosafety awareness and promote (bio)-safety first approach.

##### **Regulatory environment**

In the EU, the biosafety approach is captured in several layers of the legal framework. These are intended to provide an environment in which biotechnology activities can be performed in a safe and acceptable way. Yet, the diversity of requirements, which are rarely synchronized with each other, create a discouraging administrative burden, and - even worse - legal uncertainty. Furthermore, biotechnologists are challenged to keep up with legislative changes and initiatives that continue to impose new demands.

The Task Group aims to clarify the legal requirements. It will identify areas of emerging legislation that could impact biotechnology operations and products and interact as a major stakeholder to promote practicable and risk-based legislation.

#### Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology

The Task Group, established in 1991, is unique in its representation of most stakeholders in the public debate, and was one of the first organisations working in this field. It exists to promote public understanding and informed public debate of the life sciences and their applications by modern biotechnology in Europe. It has a very broad membership from all EU and other European countries of approximately 50 leading people from scientific research, industry, government, consumer, genetic disability and environmental organisations, the media and communications researchers and practitioners, all with an interest in communicating about biotechnology with the general public. The Task Group and members have been financially supported by the European Commission since 1993.

The Task Group's policy is to maintain an independent position between science, industry, government, public interest groups and the media. Its funding from independent sources, especially the European Commission, is particularly important to maintain the credibility and impact of the Task Group's activities in the view of the public. The Task Group undertakes many activities designed to improve the quality of public debate about modern biotechnology in Europe, regularly organises advanced workshop-type training courses in public communication and ethics for academic and industry scientists, multi-stakeholder workshops and conferences, and produces briefing papers on key issues usually translated into the main European languages. Task Group members continuously promote and publicise its aims and activities at scientific conferences and to opinion leaders, politicians and the media throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Encouragement and practical support is provided to scientists and their organisations for a wide range of public communication activities and events.



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### Task Group on Education and Mobility

The EFB Task Group on Education and Mobility is composed of some forty senior scientists committed to higher education from a whole range of biotechnology-related scientific and technological disciplines and representing all EU member states. Its main aim is to promote higher level education and training in biotechnology through various internal and external networking activities.

The Task Group has arranged various courses and workshops and also played a key role in developing a variety of European biotechnology education initiatives. This has included the Code of Conduct for Biotechnologists, the European Doctorate in Biotechnology and Professional accreditation for biotechnologists.

### Task Group on International Relations (TGIR)

The EFB Task Group on International Relations (TGIR) aims at the promotion of international interactions and cooperation between governments, industries and academics in the field of biotechnology. Specifically, TGIR formulates proposals to the European Commission and implements EC programmes to establish strategic relations.

One of the main activities of the Task Group is **European Focus on Biotechnology in China (EFBIC)**. EFBIC's purpose is to establish strategic relations in biotechnology between decision makers in Europe and China and facilitate collaborations in research, training and innovation among European and Chinese scientists.

### Task Group on European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES)

Addressing Europe's responsibilities towards the developing world is the main goal of European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES), a communications programme to enhance the collaboration between European scientists and researchers in the developing world to fight hunger and disease by increasing the use of the life sciences.

EAGLES (European Action on Global Life Sciences) is a Task Group within the European Federation of Biotechnology which promotes and develops partnerships in the life sciences between Europe and developing countries.

### Task Group on Innovation (TG INN)

The goal of TG-INN is to support the creation of open innovation platforms capable of managing access to and commercialization of bioscience research results among universities, SMEs, big pharma, and healthcare organizations. The following three areas are emphasized through education, research, collaboration, and practical efforts:

- Knowledge-based Business Management
- University Entrepreneurship
- Intellectual Property & Ethics

TG-INN's mission is to increase the utilization of bioscience research to the benefit of industry, academia, and society by facilitating the innovation process.



## 7. EFB REGIONAL BRANCH OFFICES

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### EFB Regional Branch Offices

EFB has **12 Regional Branch Offices (RBO)** in Europe to support its activities in the various areas of biotechnology covered by the Federation. The RBOs address a number of regional tasks and support selected EFB Sections and Task Groups.

Regional tasks include representing the EFB in their region, keeping good contacts with the national biotechnologists and the regional authorities, ensuring EFB presence at relevant biotech events in their region and arranging regional events.

#### EFB Regional Branch Offices

- **RBO Paris:** The Paris RBO is located at the Societe de Chimie Industrielle and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for France.
- **RBO Madrid:** The Madrid RBO is located at the Spanish Society of Biotechnology (SEBiot) and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Spain.
- **RBO Frankfurt:** The Frankfurt RBO is located at Dechema and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Germany.
- **RBO Oslo:** The Oslo RBO is located at MedCoast Scandinavia and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Norway and Iceland.
- **RBO Gothenburg:** The Gothenburg RBO serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Sweden.
- **RBO Turku:** The Turku RBO is located at Turku Bio Valley Ltd and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Finland and St. Petersburg.
- **RBO Aarhus:** The Aarhus RBO is located at BioMedico Forum and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Denmark.
- **RBO Tartu:** The Tartu RBO is located at the Estonian Genome Foundation and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- **RBO Szeged:** The Szeged RBO is located at the University of Szeged and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Hungary, Slovenia and South-Eastern Europe.
- **RBO Lodz:** The Lodz RBO is located at the Technical University of Lodz and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.
- **RBO Ljubljana:** The Ljubljana RBO is located at the National Institute of Chemistry and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Slovenia.
- **RBO Bologna:** The Bologna RBO is located at the University of Bologna and serves as EFB Regional Branch Office for Italy.



## 8. PRESS CONTACTS

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### Press Contacts

#### European Federation of Biotechnology Headquarters

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#### Section on Green Biotechnology

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