



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **European SME Week**

#### **Tailoring the European Framework Programmes and financing for biotech SMEs: Improvements and Challenges**

**Madrid, Spain, 2 June 2010**

Today, EuropaBio and ASEBIO, the Spanish Biotechnology Association, will co-host a roundtable discussion for SMEs in Madrid, Spain.

The roundtable, which takes place towards the end of European SME Week, aims to focus on the European Framework Programmes and on improving financing. EuropaBio, which represents 1800 Biotech SMEs, is committed to working together with its National Associations, such as ASEBIO, to tackle the unique set of challenges that these organisations face in becoming financially sustainable.

Commenting on the event, Tom Saylor, Chair of EuropaBio's SME Platform said: "Biotech SMEs represent an important pillar of the knowledge-based economy. However, they require long timetables and considerable financial resources to capture the value of Europe's strong scientific capabilities. While Europe generates a large number of biotech SMEs very few reach significant points of value. SME Week offers the opportunity to bring focus to the crucial role that biotechnology plays in ensuring a strong future economy for Europe."

One year on from the publication of EuropaBio's paper '*Access to Finance: A Call for Action*' this roundtable will provide an overview of the improvements and the remaining challenges faced by these enterprises. Special focus will be placed on FP7 with the presentation of a set of recommendations on how to adjust the European Framework Programmes to meet the specific needs of biotech SMEs.

Nathalie Moll, EuropaBio's Secretary General concluded: "For small organisations these groups play a big role in generating some of Europe's most valuable biotech innovation. They are built and formed by some of the most visionary, dedicated scientists and researchers that Europe has to offer and they will be instrumental in finding solutions to some of our most pressing healthcare, energy, environmental and food security challenges. Today's roundtable represents an important opportunity for us to work together towards providing EU financial lifelines for these organisations through adapting FP7 consortium requirements and directing calls for proposals towards SMEs with better levels of funding."

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**About EuropaBio**

EuropaBio's mission is to promote an innovative and dynamic biotechnology based industry in Europe. EuropaBio, (the European Association for Bioindustries), has 66 corporate and 7 associate members operating worldwide, 4 Bioregions and 22 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises. <http://www.europabio.org/>