



Press Release

White biotech part of chemical industry's competitiveness and sustainability plans

London, November 25, 2005 – Today Stakeholders of the Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) unveil a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and three visionary scenarios for innovation in chemistry including one using industrial biotechnology. EuropaBio backs the role that industrial or white biotechnology can play in helping the chemical industry meet the challenges of next 20 years in one of Europe's most important industrial sectors. The biotechnology sector can bring its knowledge of biology and systems to manufacture, using biological processes, products like bioplastics, biomaterials, bioenergy, bringing environmental and economic gains.

The chemical industry is a major employer and a considerable player in the European economy. That biotechnology is contributing to the competitiveness of this sector in sustaining growth and jobs is important. The biotechnology sector itself employs close on 100, 000 people in core biotech companies.

The new research agenda for the chemical industry is part of SusChem - a joint initiative of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the European Biotechnology Industry Association (EuropaBio) and is supported by the European Commission. SusChem aims to contribute to successful, competitive, sustainable EU chemical and associated industries with global business leadership based on technology excellence.

Jack Huttner, Chair of EuropaBio's Industrial Biotechnology Council said; "The twenty year research agenda for the chemical sector with emphasis on biotechnology as one of the three main pillars sends a strong signal to the many enterprises including young innovative companies that are developing white biotech products and processes to step up their investment to meet the new demands of the chemical industry."

On December 2nd, EuropaBio co-organises an investor forum in Barcelona for small and medium sized industrial biotech enterprises to meet with investors and large life science companies.

For further information, please contact

Dirk Carrez, Tel: + 32 2 735 0313 Direct: +32 2 7391173 Mobile: +32 473 73 65 28
Email: d.carrez@europabio.org

Adeline Farrelly Tel: +32 2 735 0313 Direct: +32 2 739 1174 Mobile: +32 475 93 17 24
Email: a.farrelly@europabio.org

Notes for Editors

EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, has 60 corporate and associate members operating worldwide and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1500 small and medium sized enterprises involved in research and development, testing, manufacturing and distribution of biotechnology products.

<http://www.europabio.org>

Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) - <http://www.suschem.org>

Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) can be downloaded from the SusChem website - www.suschem.org

More about the **Industrial Biotech Finance Forum** - <http://www.e-unlimited.com/>

For more information about the **bio-based economy** – www.bio-economy.net