



PRESS RELEASE

The European biotech industry applauds UK efforts to place industrial biotech at the center of a low carbon economy

Brussels, 14 May 2009

EuropaBio, the European biotech industry association applauds the report "IB 2025: Maximising UK Opportunities from Industrial Biotechnology in a Low Carbon Economy" (1) released today by the UK's Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The biotech industry welcomes the report which is completely in line with the EU's Lead Market Initiative for Biobased Products (2). EuropaBio is also pleased to note that the report also embraces EuropaBio's policy recommendations (3) developed to help the EU realise the vision of a Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE).

"A competitive European Knowledge-based Bioeconomy can only be realised when the European Union and the member states put a coherent policy framework in place. What has been done in the UK will motivate industry to continue investment in this emerging and innovative industrial sector" said Dirk Carrez, EuropaBio's Director, Industrial Biotechnology.

Over the last two years the biotech industry has supported the European Commission to work out a set of concrete steps to realise the vision of a Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE), where biotechnology's new, clean, energy-efficient processes and innovative biobased products create a sustainable industrial base to ensure Europe's future prosperity. EuropaBio's "Industrial Biotechnology Policy Agenda for Europe" (3) produced an outline of policy recommendations to develop a competitive KBBE in Europe, but recognized that in order for these recommendations to be implemented, political support was needed.

"EuropaBio is pleased to note the support these recommendations have received from the UK government" said Willy De Greef, EuropaBio's Secretary General. "Developing an innovation driven economy is at the core of the Lisbon partnership. It is only with support of the member states that the vision to support growth and jobs in Europe by stimulating innovation can be realized."

-ENDS -

Notes to the Editor

(1) IB 2025: Maximising UK Opportunities from Industrial Biotechnology in a Low Carbon Economy <http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/chemicals/IBIGT/page44395.html>

(2) The Commission Website on the Lead Market Initiative:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/leadmarket/leadmarket.htm>

(3) Industrial Biotechnology Policy Agenda for Europe
http://www.europabio.org/TPWhite/policy%20agenda_141206.pdf

About EuropaBio

EuropaBio is the European Association for Bioindustries, solely and uniquely bringing together bioscience companies from all fields of research and development, testing, manufacturing and distribution of biotechnology products. It has 68 corporate and 7 associated members, 4

BioRegions and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises involved in research. <http://www.europabio.org/>

For further information, please contact

Dirk Carrez

Director, Industrial Biotech, EuropaBio

Tel: +32 739 11 73; Email: d.carrez@europabio.org

Rebecca Weaver

Communications Manager, EuropaBio

Tel: +32 739 1184; Email: r.weaver@europabio.org