



NEWS ALERT

European Parliament asks for urgent debate on biotechnology as a tool to moderate food prices

Strasbourg, 23 May 2008: Yesterday, the European Parliament backed two amendments to a resolution on Rising food prices in the EU and the developing countries calling on the EU institutions to urgently discuss the use of modern biotechnology as one tool to help enable Europe respond to the rising food prices here and the developing world. “We welcome the Parliament’s call to recognize the role of biotechnology,” says Johan Vanhemelrijck, Secretary General of EuropaBio – the EU association for bioindustries. “Biotechnology, a tool used by plant breeders to develop better crop varieties, enables farmers to increase productivity in a sustainable way, both in Europe and in the rest of the world. Biotech crops can help farmers meet the challenges of climate change, reduce the environmental footprint of farming, and ensure food security.”

The two amendments were backed by an overwhelming majority of MEPs. Amendment 28 was backed by 391 MEPs while Amendment 29 received more than 426 votes in favour.

Amendment 28

“12e. Considers that the current crisis demands an immediate and thorough discussion among the EU institutions and the Member States on the role that modern biotechnology can play in ensuring the continued production of food at reasonable prices”

Amendment 3

“19b. Calls, in particular, for any developments on GMOs and public debate thereon to be followed closely”

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Link to all amendments:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sce/server/internet/amend_motions_texts/sce_amend_motions_texts_main_02.jsp?ref=RC-B6-0217/2008

Nathalie Moll – Email: n.moll@europabio.org – Mobile: +32 473 88 45 78

Adeline Farrelly - Email: a.farrelly@europabio.org - Mobile: +32 475 931724

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 85 corporate members operating worldwide, 7 associate members, 5 BioRegions and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises involved in research. <http://www.europabio.org>