



Press Release

EuropaBio welcomes European Patients' Forum Patients' Manifesto

Brussels, 24 September 2008

EuropaBio welcomes the European Patients' Forum Patients' Manifesto (1) which was launched last week in the European Parliament. EuropaBio very much supports this new document and its overall goals, which are closely aligned to those of EuropaBio, namely to ensure the implementation of a true patient centered healthcare system in Europe.

The Patient Manifesto calls for vital new measures in 3 fundamental areas to improve the quality of health care delivered across the EU:

- Equal and timely access to safe, effective diagnosis, treatments and support;
- Better information and resources for patients to be partners in determining their care;
- A patients' voice to be heard in Brussels and throughout the European Union.

In the manifesto, the Forum is calling upon the political groups within the European Parliament, MEPs, prospective MEPs, national representatives in EU Member States, and the new Commission, to commit to the legitimate rights and needs of patients and to make their proposals their priority.

"EuropaBio supports patient actions and hopes that policy-makers are listening to the public's concerns. In order to guarantee continued access to the most innovative care, it is vital to create an optimal environment for patient access to biotech therapies in Europe," said Mr. Andrea Rappagliosi, Chair of EuropaBio's Healthcare Council.

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Notes to Editors

(1) European Patients' Forum Patients' Manifesto <http://www.eu-patient.eu/manifesto/index.php>

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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 79 corporate members operating worldwide, 5 associate members, 6 BioRegions and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises involved in research. Its mission is to promote an innovative and dynamic biotechnology-based industry in Europe. <http://www.europabio.org/>