



The European Association for Bioindustries

FAQ EuropaBio New Membership Categories

1) What kind of organizations can become members of EuropaBio?

Until June 2009, full membership of EuropaBio was restricted to either companies that were directly involved in technology development and sales of biotechnology products or national associations of biotechnology companies. Now there are two additional membership categories. Companies that are involved in **investment** in biotechnology and companies that are involved in **providing services** (e.g. patent offices or companies that are assisting operational companies with regulatory support) are now eligible to become full members of EuropaBio.

2) Why did EuropaBio choose to open its membership?

The new decision about membership reflects the fact that the biotechnology industry is changing rapidly and that the investment community and service providers are an integral part of the biotechnology sector. We have chosen to open our doors so that we can access their expertise. This will also provide them with a voice when we interact with European authorities about biotechnology policies in the future.

3) Why should investment companies be interested in becoming members of EuropaBio?

When investing in biotechnology, the investment community is accustomed to taking very large risks; that has to do with uniquely long research and development cycle of new biotechnology products. Added to the financial risk there is also policy risk and regulatory risk. EuropaBio is the interlocutor of the European institutions on policy and regulations related to biotechnology. For the investment community, membership of EuropaBio gives an opportunity to acquire a much better insight into policies, regulatory and legislative initiatives that are coming along and that affect the future of their potential investment.

4) Why should service companies (such as patent offices, IPR companies and regulatory service providers) become members of EuropaBio?

Additionally, both IPR and regulation are central activities of EuropaBio in its relationships with the European institutions. On the one hand these companies can benefit by getting better insights in what is coming in the policy field; on the other hand they provide a pool of expertise that can help EuropaBio as a stakeholder in these regulatory and policy frameworks to give better voice to the views of the private sector towards the policy makers.