



# EuropaBio's Core Ethical Values

## June 2016

### PREAMBLE

1. EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, represents large, small and medium sized companies as well as national associations which operate in a Member State, or candidate Member State of the European Union or the European Free Trade Association and are engaged in or represent companies that carry out research, development, testing, manufacturing, marketing, sales and distribution of biotechnology products and services in the field of healthcare, renewable energy, chemical products and materials, agriculture, food and environment. To see the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s widely accepted definition of biotechnology, please [click here](#). For more information about EuropaBio and its members, please visit our [website](#).
2. EuropaBio's mission is to promote an innovative and dynamic biotechnology based industry in Europe.
3. EuropaBio proactively supports a science-based, transparent and predictable regulatory framework.
4. EuropaBio recognizes its responsibility to address ethical concerns of society and to encourage, through dialogue, a better mutual understanding of such concerns including cultural or religious aspects.
5. These Core Ethical Values are addressed to all stakeholders who wish to know about the key ethical values that underpin our work. EuropaBio and its members aspire to contribute to a sustainable society. All members of EuropaBio commit to these Core Ethical Values.
6. Since biotechnology is innovative and develops rapidly, and since societal preferences are developing as well, these Core Ethical Values may be modified over time to address new issues and new insights.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

7. We are committed to the socially responsible use of biotechnology including genetic modification (GM) to improve the quality of life, to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure diseases, to improve the quality and quantity of food and feedstuffs, to produce sustainable chemicals and materials, and to protect the environment and clean up hazardous wastes.
8. We are committed to high ethical standards in the development and use of safe and effective products. We promote the need for global harmonization of regulatory processes and ethical standards.
9. We develop and use biotechnology with respect for human dignity and human rights. We take steps to avoid misuse of our technologies.
10. We are committed to increasing understanding of biotechnology among all stakeholders including the wider public.
11. We support the principles of openness and transparency and are committed to an open, informed dialogue with all interested stakeholders about the ethical, social, environmental, economic and legal aspects of biotechnology and its applications.
12. We aim to communicate and share timely and appropriate information about biotechnology and its derived products and services in an accurate and balanced manner.
13. We strive to innovate and to achieve sustainable solutions for society.
14. We give priority to health, safety and environmental protection when undertaking the research, development and manufacturing as well as in the distribution of our products and services.
15. We support the right to secure intellectual property protection for products derived through the use of biotechnology while protecting the rights of other stakeholders in developed and developing countries.
16. We support transparent product information that enables informed consumer choice and avoids misleading or irrelevant information.
17. We are committed to reduce, refine and replace (3R's) animal testing as well as to develop and promote alternatives and aim to achieve the highest animal welfare standards. We commit to minimize pain and distress during animal testing and to use animals in our research only when scientifically necessary or required by regulations.
18. We support the Biological Weapons Convention banning development and use of biological weapons and will not undertake any research or other activities intended for use in developing, testing or producing such weapons.

19. We support the principles embodied in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to protect biological diversity including adherence to the principles of access and benefit sharing.
20. We support the development of bio-preparedness [to prepare for natural threats and biological warfare] including detection, prevention and bioremediation to support public health and security.

## **HEALTHCARE**

21. We respect all Codes of Ethics including independence of healthcare professionals in all their medical decisions whether related to clinical research, diagnostic, prescription, use of products or of any related patient-care services.
22. We support the principles of openness and transparency in our relations with patients and patient groups, and to respect and safeguard their independence.
23. We respect individual privacy and support the protection of personal information including data concerning health and genetic data.
24. We support the transparent use of medical and genetic information derived from individuals in line with applicable laws and regulation.
25. We oppose any use or disclosure of medical information which could lead to intolerance, stigmatization or discrimination.
26. The majority of EuropaBio Healthcare members carry out clinical research programmes and when it is the case, we ensure within our responsibilities that the informed consent form for clinical trials is drafted in an open and transparent way, in accordance with legal requirements and is obtained in compliance with existing laws and regulations. When individuals are unable to give their consent, it should be sought from their legally authorized representative.
27. We recognize and support the position that severe, rare, as well as neglected diseases are public health priorities and we take our shared responsibility in these areas seriously.
28. We oppose the use of cloning technologies to reproduce human beings.
29. We welcome the International Summit Statement on Human Gene Editing of December 2015, and note in particular its conclusions on germline editing for clinical use. We believe that it would be irresponsible to proceed with any clinical use of germline editing unless and until there is broad societal consensus about the appropriateness of the proposed application. Moreover, any clinical use should proceed only under appropriate regulatory oversight. As scientific knowledge advances and societal views evolve, the clinical use of germline editing should be revisited on a regular basis.

30. We are committed to ethical research on different types of stem cells. We support carefully considered embryonic or hybrid stem cell research in order to advance knowledge in biomedicine and its applications in healthcare within the legislative framework of each country.
31. We support the compensation of human tissue donors only for their expenses and inconvenience when appropriate.
32. A conflict of interest (perceived or real; personal or organisational) may occur when an individual or organisation is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly bias the motivation for an act in the other. When not avoidable, we support early disclosure and next level elevation of those conflicts of interest in order to be properly addressed and mitigated. In all cases, they should neither compromise the safety or well-being of patients and consumers nor data integrity.
33. In accordance with legislation, we support the timely posting of clinical trial information and making the results of such clinical research publicly available in a timely fashion regardless of its outcome in order to share scientific findings and prevent unnecessary repetition of clinical trials while protecting patient privacy rights and any commercially confidential information.
34. We support the provision of applicable information and/or counseling to patients prior to and after genetic testing.
35. We condemn the abuse of medicinal products to enhance athletic performance.
36. We acknowledge that healthcare professionals and patients (or their representatives) may serve as consultants to EuropaBio and its member companies, providing valuable bona fide consulting services including research, participation on advisory boards, and presentations at EuropaBio-sponsored events. It is appropriate to pay healthcare professionals reasonable compensation for performing these services. Compensation to healthcare professional consultants should be based on the nature of and commensurate to the services provided, in accordance with applicable tax and other legal requirements. EuropaBio and its members may also pay for reasonable expenses incurred by consultants in carrying out the subject of the consulting agreement. We support the principles contained in relevant international declarations such as those listed hereunder, but not limited hereto:
- The Declaration of Helsinki - Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects (World Medical Association)
  - The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights and its additional protocols (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
  - The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the application of biology and medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and its Additional Protocols: (Council of Europe)
  - The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)



## **AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FEED, FIBRE, CHEMICALS, MATERIALS FUEL, BIOBASED PRODUCTS AND THE BIOECONOMY**

37. We support improvements in the quantity, quality and accessibility of agricultural products in order to enhance the world's security of supply in food and feedstuff as well as raw materials such as fibre and renewable energy supplies derived from agricultural production.
38. We promote efficiency and sustainability in agriculture through the deployment of biotechnology in crop and animal production (including aquatic species) and in arboriculture.
39. We support the development of a broad range of biotechnologies including the use of transgenic and native genome editing techniques, which offer substantial benefits to all biotechnology sectors. In the agricultural sector, these technologies allow private and public breeders to grow, protect and improve crop and animal productivity and to use natural resources more effectively.
40. We promote the need for global harmonization of regulatory processes for both the local cultivation of agricultural crops and for the global trade of agricultural commodities using biotechnology.
41. We support the principles of openness and transparency in our relationships with growers, agricultural commodity handlers, food and feed processors and, retailers, and consumers with the objective of assuring them of the safety and benefits of agricultural biotechnologies.
42. We support the sustainable use of plant material, residues and waste for production of bio-based products (such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, materials and fuels) to enable a sustainable bio-economy.
43. We support cleaner industrial and municipal processes through biotechnology.



## **CORE ETHICAL VALUES**

All members of EuropaBio voluntarily adhere to these Core Ethical Values. Member companies shall not represent any position as being that of EuropaBio unless that position has been approved by the Council and / or Board of EuropaBio.

Member companies also recognize EuropaBio's responsibility to consider deviations by its members from these Core Ethical Values and to recommend appropriate responses after a reasonable due process in accordance with the EuropaBio Statutes Article 5.

EuropaBio staff shall adhere to the EU Code of Conduct for Interest Representation in particular its principles and rules. We undertake to behave in line with the principles of openness, transparency, honesty and integrity.

When translated, the original English text prevails.

According to Article 4 of the EuropaBio Statutes all Members and Associate Members shall adhere to the Core Ethical Values of the Association.

Approved as modified by EuropaBio's General Assembly on 29 June 2016.