



PRESS RELEASE

EuroBio 2008: Despite the Darkest Financial Week in Modern History, Three Shiny “Red, White and Green” Days

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Federico Mayor, former Director General of UNESCO and Kofi Annan’s advisor, honour by their presence the Rising Generation of Young European Bio Entrepreneurs

Paris, October 10. EuroBio 2008 closed yesterday on a strongly optimistic note: if the current economic situation has mutated in the past several weeks from turmoil to crisis, the generation that will lead the way in the future is full of confidence and determination. In a strong message to the international experts who gathered on the occasion of EuroBio, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Nobel Prize in Medicine 2008 shared that **with passion, everything is possible, with determination, everything is achievable.** These encouraging words found resonance with the group of young biologists representing Europe’s best and brightest who were pro-actively involved in the event and who rose to their feet to applaud this exceptional *Pasteurienne*.

As a showcase event in the European Presidency of the EU, EuroBio succeeded in attracting the key stakeholders in the European life sciences community to debate the issues and challenges facing this driver of innovation. Companies, professional organizations and other institutions from all branches of biotech (Red for healthcare, White for industry and Green for agriculture) were provided the opportunity to present their activities within the **Exhibition Pillar**. The **Conference Pillar** generated constructive discussions, resulting in a series of clear messages and recommendations which will inform the White Paper to be presented during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in 2009. This Presidency will place Innovation in its rightful place as a key driver of economic development. The **EuroBioPartnering Business Convention Pillar** stimulated productive interactions between hundreds of companies, from multinationals to start-ups, the investment community, and other life sciences stakeholders. The **Career Fair Pillar**, the fourth pillar following the American BIO model, enabled recruiters to meet the bright new generation of postdocs upon whom rests the future of the life sciences industry.

“Despite the unprecedented financial crisis, we are extremely pleased with the success of this EuroBio, which is being held during the French EU Presidency” stated Eric Poincelet, Commissioner General of EuroBio 2008. *“Nevertheless”,* he went on to say, *“what this success*

clearly demonstrates is that the economy of the 21st century will be built upon a whole new set of priorities. It also confirms the central and increasingly important role of life sciences in the sustainable development of our society and its economy. Finally, Europe has realized, at long last, that it is showing the world the way forward when it comes to the eco-industries. The expression "Old Europe" should now definitely be banned from our vocabulary... "

"What EuroBiO has also shown is that it plays a vital role in enhancing the visibility of a sector that hold strong potential in innovation, whether it be in the area of healthcare or in the eco-industries", added Pierre Tambourin, President of EuroBiO 2008 and CEO of Genopole. This European BIO, which is 10 years younger than its American cousin, has proven that it is more than just an event, and that it has made, and will continue to make, a strong contribution to building a healthy, sustainable life sciences sector in Europe.

*"You hold the keys to **your** future. We certainly did not do a good job of preparing it for you, and now, it is we who need you!" said Federico Mayor, former Director General of UNESCO and special advisor to Kofi Annan, to the group of young biologists representing the 27 Member States of the European Union. We haven't yet fully understood that this "Global Warming" is, in fact, a "Global Warning", from the Planet.... Innovation is no longer an option. It is our collective obligation and priority. The time has come for concrete action - - every day, 30,000 people die of hunger, and 60,000 people die from cancer".*

"It is interesting to note at a time of unprecedented economic crisis that the total European budget (130 billion Euros) represents approximately only twice what Germany spent, for example, to bail out just one of its banks..." concluded Eric Poincelet. "It is about time we began to ask ourselves the right questions with regard to the use of our national and European resources. The current funding for research and innovation - - our future - - is not at all in line with what is at stake..."

"The new generation of scientists and entrepreneurs who have participated in all the debates have understood this - - after all, it is they who will lead this BioRevolution. We must now do everything we can to help them in this formidable, exciting challenge...It is high time we decided to switch our current focus on growing sugar beets to devoting our energy and funding to growing geniuses..."

EuroBiO saw the participation of over one hundred internationally renowned speakers, including Angel Gurría, Secretary General of OECD; Christian Sautter, Deputy of the Mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, in charge of Economic Development and International Attractiveness, as well as Cathy Kinney, President & co-Chief Operating Officer, NYSE Euronext who shared the message that if the future is not what it used to be, it still held great promise for the healthcare and eco-industry sectors.

EuroBiO 2008 in some figures:

- 120 renowned speakers participated in round-tables, BioDialogues, House of Commons Debates, workshops and plenary sessions;
- Active participation of nearly 100 national and international journalists, covering the event and conducting interviews on the EuroBiO TV Studio;
- 5,000 square meters of exhibition hall, and over 500 companies, professional organizations, institutions, research centres, and the majority of the European bioclusters which, alongside the French clusters, spanned the biotechnology sector, and attracted 4 000 visitors;
- The Business Convention hosted over 400 professionals who participated in approximately 1500 one-to-one meetings;
- The Career Fair attracted nearly 600 postdocs and PhDs who met with approximately 50 recruiters.

Discover the highlights of EuroBiO at: www.eurobio2008.com.

About EuroBiO

Founded in 1997 on the initiative of the French Ministry of Research, the then called European Biotech Crossroads has rapidly succeeded in bringing together all the biotechnology actors and stakeholders: life science companies, start-up projects, students, researchers, private & public-sector research organizations, industry bodies, investors, consulting firms, multinationals from the biotech, pharmaceutical, diagnostics, agrifood & environmental sectors, local authorities, clusters, bioparks, bioincubators, public authorities and regulatory bodies.

*In 2006, the European Biotech Crossroads took place in Paris for its 10th anniversary. Under the guidance of Eric Poincelet, former Director General of BioVision, the "Davos of Life Sciences", founded by the first Vice-president of the European Commission, PM Raymond Barre, the Event was totally transformed on this occasion and remodelled according to the US BIO structure: **Four Pillars and Three Sectors**.*

*EuroBiO is now a truly international event, with a prime focus on European issues. The Event is dedicated to Life Sciences in general - and in particular, to biotech's **three major fields of application - Health, Environment and Agro-industry**.*

The overall setting of EuroBiO 2008 was awarded to Paris and Region Ile-de-France; the concrete organization of the event is ensured by its Regional Economic Development Agency for Paris Ile-de-France (ARD) and its Partner, Package Organization.

For more detailed information, visit the EuroBiO 2008 web site at: www.eurobio2008.com

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