

EFB Environmental Biotechnology Division

Minutes of an online meeting of the Division Board held on Thursday, 18
December 2025

In attendance:

- Jeff Cole
- Mauro Di Fenza
- Rita Mota
- Joana Pareira (Co-Chair)
- Anna Parus
- Felice Quartinello
- David Richardson
- Joanna Surmacz-Gorska (Chair)
- Marta Wozniak-Karczewska

Apologies:

- Marcella Fernandes de Souza
- Monika Harnisz
- Sónia Patrícia Marques Ventura

1. Apologies and Welcome

The Chair welcomed participants and noted apologies from Marcella, Monika, and Sónia.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

No additional matters raised beyond the agenda.

3. Progress in planning the next Green Deal Biotechnology meeting

Organising the meeting in Belgium remains financially challenging. Minimum registration fees anticipated: €525 (early bird), €575 (standard). Sponsorship is essential to keep fees affordable. Suggested tiers: Platinum (€5,000), Gold (€2,500), Silver (€1,000). Each Board member was asked to help identify at least one sponsor. Additional considerations were on whether to charge higher fees for industry participants; however, the Board agreed to maintain a single fee

structure for all attendees. The Division has about 10k € in reserves and there was a proposal to allocate part of this amount for bursaries, either full or partial. Jeff to draft a questionnaire to gather Board input on the inclusion of social events in the registration fee, the sponsorship, and the bursary scheme. The questionnaire is to be reviewed by Anna, Joanna, Marcella, and David.

4. Venue partnership options

Joana suggested exploring collaboration with Ghent-based institutions (e.g., VLIZ) to reduce venue costs; she will contact Marcella directly in this regard. Networking dinner costs remain a concern; options to include or offer separately will be considered.

5. ECB2026 Congress

David reported all six symposia have provisional Chairs; abstracts expected from January onwards. Missing Chair for microbiome symposium; suggestions welcome. Promotional slides and banner to be circulated among Board members for wider dissemination.

6. Board roles

Clarification requested on division of responsibilities between Mauro and Anna (agenda, secretarial tasks, website updates). Mauro and Anna to agree on roles and inform the Board.

7. Collaboration with Proteinn Club

Proposal to engage with this industrial group for future activities, including a workshop on regulatory constraints. Action deferred until venue, date, and keynote speakers are confirmed (target: July 2026). No objections raised to collaboration.

8. Special Issue of New Biotechnology

First manuscript ready for submission; deadline extension requested. Monika to prepare invitation text for submissions; members to share within their networks. Scope confirmed as open beyond Green Deal meeting contributions.

9. Any other business

Joana to draft annual activity report (one page) for review by Joanna and Jeff, if needed requesting support from Mauro/Anna. Website update required to include David as Treasurer. Joanna to contact researcher Anna K. regarding interest in Division activities.

10. Scheduling of the next Meeting

Proposed for early February 2026. Anna to circulate Doodle poll by 10 January.

Closing

The Chair thanked all participants for their contributions and wished everyone a happy holiday season. Appreciation expressed for ongoing support to the Division.