

EFB Environmental Biotechnology Division

Meeting of the Division Board held on ZOOM on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 5:00 PM CET.

Present: Philippe Corvini, Fabio Fava, Joana Pereira, Joanna Surmacz-Górska, Marlen Vasquez, Marta Woźniak, Sónia Ventura.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome.

Apologies for absence were received via email due to other commitments from Jeff Cole and Concetta Messina.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the Board on the 20th of July 2022

The minutes were approved.

3. Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below.

No additional matters were raised for discussion.

4. EB Division event for the AFoB Congress in Bali.

On behalf of Concetta, the Board was informed that she already registered as a speaker representing EFB, and she is in touch with the Chair of the AFoB Blue Biotechnology Division, Choul-Gyun Lee to ensure the best arrangements. Philippe confirmed that there are no further updates to the information already shared in the previous Board meeting.

5. EB Division event on Marine Biotechnology in the EFB October conference

(i) Invited and confirmed speakers from the academia and industry. Following on invitations addressed/suggested by Jeff, Marlen, Concetta and Sónia, several speakers were already confirmed, namely Olivier Thomas (NUI Galway), Fernando Reyes (Fundación Medina) and Kamalesh Prasad (CSIR-CSMCRI Bhavnagar). There are still four gaps for short talks from companies. Jeff forwarded a draft email that can be sent to SMEs to encourage them to register and present a short, invited talk, which is available in [Attachment 2022K](#). It was suggested that if the gaps cannot be fulfilled with speakers from companies working directly on marine biotechnology, a speaker from the field of marine pollution could be welcome. In order to render the organization progress more efficient, those involved in the organization of the EB Division event will communicate directly and meet if necessary, eliminating the need of a new Board meeting before the conference.

Action: [Sónia](#) will contact some SMEs in Portugal and Belgium, as well as the Biobase Europe Pilot Plant, encouraging their participation.

Action: [Philippe](#) will ask the Central Office (or Jeff directly) for the list of companies that have been invited, with the indication of whom has replied and how to then proceed with new invitations with no duplication.

(ii) Final definition of session chairs. The Board agreed with the appointment of Marlen as a Chair and Fabio as a co-Chair of the event.

(iii) Sponsoring. Sponsorship details are already available on the website, and an extra-effort should be made to take the opportunity provided by the new format to raise sponsorship (see item (i)).

(iv) Advertising strategy. Marta has been the Facebook page of the Division very active (3-4 posts per week) and has been regularly advertising on the EFB conference and the Division event within it. As soon as the Twitter credentials are available, the same will apply to this social network. It was suggested that all Board members include a slogan in their email signatures advertising to the conference to improve the visibility of the event. It was also suggested that a reminder on the conference and the EB Division event should be sent to all Division members.

Action: Marta will prepare some slogan suggestions to share with a Board for selection and integration in email signatures.

Action: Marta will prepare a draft of the reminder to be sent to the EFB EB Division members by Simona.

6. Meeting under the topic of healthy soil at Mutenz in September 2023.

Philippe shared with the Board that the organization is ongoing, the advertising flyer is being designed and a meeting is scheduled on September 21st with Sebastian Wendeborn to make further advances and discuss the proposal sent by the Central Office regarding the promotion of the event. Philippe shared that the Agroscope (Swiss Confederation's center of excellence for agricultural research) agreed to be co-organizers of the meeting. Fabio noted that the EU already selected the new members of the Board for the new Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030, highlighting that it would be very important to have a Mission Board representative in the meeting.

Action: Fabio will recover the information on the Mission Board composition and share with Philippe and Sebastian to define with whom and how the invitation to participate in the meeting can be made.

7. ENBIOECONOMY meeting at Gdansk, in October 2023.

Upon the confirmed lack of response from hotels that could serve as a venue for the meeting, Joanna and Ewa have been developing contacts with the Gdansk University of Technology. In a few days they will confirm if the Gdansk University of Technology agrees with hosting an EFB meeting, which will likely be the case. From then on the necessary arrangements will be made regarding contracts with the EFB, budget and FEMS funding application.

8. Website.

On behalf of Jeff, Joana shared with the Board a request from EFB regarding the website. Five years ago the EFB Executive Board decided to update the EFB image and adopt consistent branding across all of the Divisions, the EFB Congress and the main EFB website. For this reason, the EFB is asking the Division Board please to accept the same display on the Home page as the five other Divisions. Specifically, this will mean at the top of the page there will be a direct link to the Board should be available at the top of the page replacing the current heading "About us". The Board agreed that the Division website should follow the branding as decided by the EFB. However, it was remarked that it would be important to receive clear instructions on the level of flexibility allowed regarding headings, sub-headings and contents before further changes are made to render efficient the efforts of the members involved in the website update.

9. Any other business.

Marta expressed concerns regarding the social accounts of the Division, on whether or not the EFB allows their activity in parallel with the social accounts of the EFB itself. The Board expressed that

the prevalent interpretation is that the Division accounts are allowed but there is no possibility of incorporating them in the Division website due to technical restrictions. Still, this aspect should be kept on hold for further clarification in the next Board meeting.

An error was noted in the Agenda for the present meeting. Where Attachment 2022G is mentioned, Attachment 2022J should rather be read, relative to a list of potential sponsors to the ENBIOECONOMY meeting.

10. Scheduling of the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 2nd, at 17:00 CET, via Zoom.

Action: [Joana](#) will set up the meeting on Zoom and circulate the scheduling information in due time. The invitation will follow with an attachment allowing immediate addition to Outlook calendars.

Template for letters inviting the industry to participate in the EFB EFB October conference

Dear XXX

The European Federation of Biotechnology is organising a new type of on-line meeting designed specifically to bring SMEs, multi-national companies and academia together to enhance collaboration. This will be an on-line EFB2022 Congress on the 4th and 5th of October. The theme of the meeting will be the **Production of valuable products from renewable resources**. There will be opportunities to present short talks, 2-minute flash poster presentations, a poster session, facilities to announce any job vacancies and to speak in confidence to potential applicants. We plan to make this a very low cost event with a registration fee of only €30 for registrants. We hope your company will join us for this 2-day meeting.

We will be inviting many SMEs and larger companies to provide 10-minute presentations describing their innovations. Companies that register at the standard €30 rate will be allocated a short talk on request if slots are still available in the programme at the end of August. If not, you will be guaranteed a flash poster and poster presentation. Companies will be invited to help us cover our costs by registering as a bronze, silver or gold sponsor for which the registration fees will be €100 (one additional free registration), €200 (three additional free registrations) or €1,000 (unlimited free registrations), respectively. Any company able to register as any category of sponsor will be guaranteed a 10-minute short talk on request. Other benefits of sponsorship are listed on the **Registration page** of the meeting website: efbiotechnology.org/efb2022. Staff in the EFB Office will make provision for confidential biopartnering meetings free of charge for participants to discuss future collaborations.