

14th ESAB NEWSLETTER

ESAB had 707 members in September '04, which is an increase of 52 since last April.

The Scientific Committee of the EFB Section on Applied Biocatalysis (ESAB) had her 53rd meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 25 and 26 September 2004. A short report of the meeting is given below.

1. Ratification ESAB Scientific Committee and Executive Board

Just before summer, I asked you to ratify our Scientific Committee and Executive Board, by either sending no reply to my e-mail in case you agree, or by sending a reply (with comments) in case you disagree. To our great satisfaction, we did not get any negative comment, which means that the official bodies of ESAB have your approval. Thank you for your confidence in us!

2. Brussels affairs

As you know, we are lobbying in Brussels to get attention for biocatalysis in the current and coming Framework Programs. As a result of the Round Table discussion on Industrial Biotechnology which took place on 17 March last, a Vision Paper on Industrial Biotechnology is being written, with the ESAB secretary Wim Soetaert and I as authors from academia. This paper will be presented to the European Commission in November.

In the meantime, commissioner Busquin has launched a Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry on July 6. A Technology Platform is a new instrument inside FP6 which aims at building bridges between different stakeholders in highly multidisciplinary fields (see for general info on TP's: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/energy/nn/nn_rt/nn_rt_hlg/article_1262_en.htm). The TP on Sustainable Chemistry consists of three sub-platforms, namely Materials Technology, Reaction and Process Design, and Industrial Biotechnology. The driving forces behind this TP are CEFIC (European chemical industry council), EuropaBio (association of European bio-industries) and ESAB. One of the goals of the TP is to define strategic research areas for FP7. We will do our very best to get a good position of biocatalysis inside this TP and FP7, but there are more TP's that want money for their field of interest so the game is still on!

3. Past events (*organised by/with ESAB*)

The 3rd International Conference on **Textile Biotechnology** took place from 13-16 June 2004, at TU Graz, AT. The conference was very well attended with 152 people from 32 countries; one third of the participants were from industry. The proceedings will be published in *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation* soon.

The 2nd International symposium on **Biocatalysis in the Food and Drinks Industries** in Hohenheim, DE, took place on 19-22 September and was attended by 85 participants, about twice as much as the first event on this topic. The symposium was run very smoothly by the local organisers. Considering the increasing interest in this field, it was decided that there will be a third symposium on this topic in September 2006, in Wageningen (the Netherlands).

The 6th International Conference on **Protein Stabilisation** was in Bratislava, Slovakia, 26-29 September. The successful symposium had 105 participants from 34 countries, of which 20 outside Europe. Also the proceedings of this symposium will be published in *Biocatalysis and Biotransformation*.

4. Upcoming events

Symposia (co-)organised by ESAB:

There is a website open now for the ESAB/ProBio Workshop on **Biocatalysis in Non-Conventional Media**, 13-14 April 2005, in Manchester, UK, at UMIST: www.umist.ac.uk/material/biocatalysis.

Biotrans 2005 is from 3-8 July 2005 in Delft, NL, see www.biotrans2005.bt.tudelft.nl. The list of invited speakers is available on the website. Registration is possible now; the call for scientific contributions is also open, deadline for oral communications **15 DECEMBER**.

ECB12 will be from 21-24 August 2005 at the premises of the DTU, Copenhagen, DK, see www.ecb12.dk. A general programme overview is available now. ESAB contributes by the organisation of three sessions. The tentative titles are: “Carbohydrate bioengineering”, “Biocatalytic oxygenation” and “Applied Biocatalysis”.

Prof. Andreas Schmid will organise a workshop on **Gram to tonne biocatalysis**, as a joint activity with the EFB-Section on Biochemical Engineering Science. The dates are 6–7 October 2005, location will be Dortmund, DE. More details will follow later.

Prof. Klaus Kulbe (Vienna) and the Austrian competence centre “Applied Biocatalysis” at TU Graz, AT, will organise a symposium on **Multi-step Enzyme Catalysed Processes**. The location is going to be Graz and the date is 18-21 April 2006. More details will follow later.

Symposia without ESAB involvement:

Glycoproteomics – protein modifications for versatile functions, Dubrovnik, HR, June 28-30, 2005, see <http://bmb.pharma.hr/glyco2005/>.

1st Workshop on **Enzyme Technology and Biocatalysis**, Graz, AT, 25-26 November 2004, see http://www.a-b.tugraz.at/data/Termine/ws_biokat/Invitation1.htm. Organisers are dr. Helmut Schwab and dr. Bernd Nidetzky, on behalf of several organisations. The website is partly in German but the conference language will be English. Speakers are, among others, M. Penttilä (VTT, SF), J. Davies (Brit. Columbia, CA), J. Woodley (UC London, UK), J. Büchs (RWTH Aachen, DE).

Maurice Franssen (chairman ESAB)