Dear colleagues and friends,

Important managerial changes occurred at EFB since last January and our EB section is still continuously growing. Our newsletter content is about being extended to a 2-page format in order to report and announce our numerous activities. New rubrics of this letter will include non exhaustively portraits of our members and institutions (suggestions for articles are welcome), opportunities for companies to advertise their products/technologies and services, fresh information on forthcoming calls from the European Commission and future developments related to environmental biotechnology. I am happy to share with you important information, enjoy the reading this second newsletter of 2015!

Yours sincerely,
Philippe Corvini, 16 March 2015

**STRATEGICAL ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS**

Bioeconomy initiative
Our section aims to boost the contribution of Environmental Biotechnology to the Bioeconomy in Eastern and Mediterranean regions of Europe. We will organise 2 workshops in 2015. The 1st one will be hosted by the 6th European Bioremediation Conference (ebc vi, Chania, GR, June 29-July 2, 2015). The 2nd one will be held at the 8th ed. of the International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management (ICEEM 08, Iasi, RO, 9-12 Sept. 2015).

**Last call for position papers!**
Environmental biotechnology is still under-represented in H2020 called topics. Therefore, may I invite volunteers to suggest and support us in writing position papers for ISI journals. We will prepare the 2 first papers on i) Enzymes at the convergence of environmental biotechnology and industrial biotechnology and ii) Nanobiotechnology for environmental applications. **Join us!**

**NEWS FROM OUR EB SECTION**
The EB section welcomes two new members of our board of experts.

**Prof. Joan Garcia** is full professor of Environmental Engineering and Director of the Department of Hydraulic, Maritime and Environmental Engineering of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech (Spain). He is also leading the research group of “Environmental Engineering and Microbiology” accredited by the Catalan Government (http://gemma.upc.edu), which belongs to an associated Unit of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC). His main research is dedicated to Environmental Engineering & Wastewater Treatment.

**Dr. Łukasz Chrzanowski** is Adjunct at Poznan University of Technology, Institute of Chemical Technology & Engineering, Poznań, Poland. His research is focussed on biodegradation of petroleum hydrocarbons and ionic liquids, microbiological aspect of biodiesel as a fuel additive, surfactant-mediated biodegradation and mechanisms of bacterial adaptation to toxic xenobiotics.

**NEWS FROM EFB**

**Elections at EFB**
Prof. Mathias Uhlen was elected as our EFB President during the EFB executive board meeting on Sat. 24th Jan 2015. Jeff Cole, Diethard Mattanovich and Philippe Corvini have been elected as the 3 vice-presidents and Wilf Mitchell as the treasurer. Our past president Marc Van Montagu will accompany us as The Ambassador of EFB.

**ECB 2016 in Krakow**
The scientific committee of ECB 2016 is currently setting the 25 symposia. Our EB section suggested following topics:
- Synthetic Biology & Environmental Biotechnology
- Interfaces between white an environmental biotechnologies
- Untapped resources for the production of biopolymers
- Waste conversion into fuels & chemicals via anaerobic processes and/or bioelectrochemical systems
- The convergence of omics for safe maritime resources
- Nanobiotechnology - A new platform to enable efficient environmental biotechnology

**IMPORTANT EVENTS OF OUR SECTION**
- The **ebc vi** chaired by N. Kalogerakis & F. Fava will be held from June 29 to July 2, 2015 (Chania, GR). We received more than 270 abstracts! Our section will organize several workshops and special sessions there. A special highlight is the honorary farewell session dedicated to Spiros Agathos our EB section vice-chair. You can still submit abstracts for posters until Apr. 15 at www.ebc-vi.tuc.gr and get the chance to attend our highlight event!
- Environmental Biotechnology section of EFB will hold its general assembly and expert meeting at ebc vi on **Wednesday 1st of July at 1 PM** at ebc vi. I count on your presence and active participation!
- The **ICEEM 08** is organized by Carmen Teodosiu and
Maria Gavrilescu from the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University with the support of our section (Iasi, RO, 9-12 Sept. 2015). We will organise the session on Bioeconomy in Eastern Europe Countries and take opportunity to set our 2nd general assembly and expert meeting there. Registration and Abstract submission deadline: March 30, 2015. Visit: http://iceem07.iceem.eu/index.html

- **The 8th edition of European Symposium on Biopolymers** (ESBP2015), Chair Prof. M. Majone, Rome (IT), 16-18 Sept. 2015. Our section is an official sponsor of this event. March 31st is the deadline for submitting short abstracts to ESBP2015. The Symposium will offer scientists, professionals, and managers the opportunity to meet and discuss most relevant news about science and technology of biopolymers and bioplastics. Several high-quality keynote lectures are planned (see at: http://www.esbp2015.org/); among them, Prof. Alexander Steinbüchel (University of Münster, DE) will present "Cyanophycin: a neglected polymer consisting of amino acids". Maria Reis (New University of Lisbon) and Alan Werker (Anox Kaldnes) will chair a round table among companies and academy representatives, focusing on lesson-learnt good practices how to fill the gap from research to innovation and the market. You can find more information at: http://www.esbp2015.org/

- **Ecomondo** 19th International Trade Fair of Material & Energy Recovery and Sustainable Development in Rimini (IT) 3-6 Nov. 2015. Fabio Fava is responsible for the whole scientific programme and our section will have several talks at this important fair. Visit: http://en.ecomondo.com/

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