Dear colleagues and friends,

Our section Environmental Biotechnology will be present at the forthcoming European Bioremediation Conference (ebc vi) in Chania, where we will meet in a few days. I am happy to share with you important information, enjoy the reading this third newsletter of 2015 and see you in Chania!

Yours sincerely,
Philippe Corvini

**NEWS FROM EFB**

**ECB 2016 in Krakow**
The scientific committee of ECB 2016 is currently setting the 25 symposia. Our EB section will most probably be represented with following topics:
- Interfaces between white an environmental biotechnologies
- Untapped resources for the production of biopolymers
- Nanobiotechnology - A new platform to enable efficient environmental biotechnology
- Biodegradation/bioremediation

**Bid for ECB for 2018 and 2020**
Together with TFI Group, the EFB has launched a request for proposal to host the forthcoming ECB 2018 and ECB 2020 conferences. Interested institutions can contact Barbara Blow (Bid Coordinator) Barbara.blow@tfigroup.com

**STRATEGICAL ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS**

**Yearly meeting of the EB section**
The 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 (room announced on-site). This meeting will be a great opportunity to review our past achievements and most importantly to discuss our future activities. We still need a strong commitment of our section members to prepare position papers and help us in organising strategic works (sessions on bio-economy) as well as with the preparation of our newsletter. I count on your presence and active participation!

**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!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR EB SECTION**

**Portrait of the Poznan University of Technology**
The EB section is glad to present you in a few words the Poznan University of Technology, the institution of Dr. Łukasz Chrzanowski, who recently joined our section. Poznan – a relatively small city (550'000 inhabitants) located directly in the middle of the road between Berlin and Warsaw. The number of students is approximately 130'000 (Poznan University of Technology 20'000 students). Poznan University of Technology is a modern technical university with a broad spectrum of novel equipment and a rapidly expanding international cooperation. Since 2014 the Faculty of Chemical Technology is located in a new, modern building. Among many fields of research involving chemistry and engineering, there are also research topics associated with selected aspects of biotechnology, e.g.:
- Development of biodegradable composites of polymers and natural resources.
- Development of electrochemical methods for remediation of water and treatment of industrial wastewater.
- Biodegradation of surface-active compounds and their monitoring in the natural environment.
- Biodegradation and determination of petroleum hydrocarbons in the natural environment.

**Ionic liquids – A future trend? (by L. Lawniczak & L. Chrzanowski)**
‘Ionic liquids’ are a class of chemical compounds, which has gained much scientific and industrial interest. This group consists of salts, which retain the liquid state at temperatures below 100°C. Typically, the ionic pair includes an organic cation and an inorganic or organic anion. Ionic liquids exhibit high chemical and thermal stability as well as negligible vapour pressure, hence they are often described as promising alternatives to volatile and hazardous organic solvents. Additionally, both the cation and the anion can be structurally modified in order to achieve the desired properties (i.e. surface activity, specific biocidal activity, catalytic activity, conductivity, etc.), which contributes to a broad spectrum of novel applications. In fact, ionic liquids have already found utility as key components of several existing industrial processes employed by chemical companies, such as BASF, Eastman Chemical Company or Petrochina. It is expected that their widespread usage will continue to expand in the future. As a consequence, there is a need for reliable data regarding their environmental fate for risk assessment purposes.
This leads to a peculiar dichotomy – ionic liquids are considered as ‘green solvents’, which eliminate the problem of air pollution, however other studies indicate that some of the compounds are also toxic xenobiotics, which may pose a potential hazard to aquatic and terrestrial environments. Current database regarding their environmental influence is mainly focused on model toxicity tests and there is a considerable lack of data regarding their biodegradability and bioaccumulation in complex environmental matrices. Recent development of ionic liquids, which may be introduced directly into the environment (i.e. herbicidal ionic liquids), renders the studies on their environmental impact all the more important. Overall, this research field is an interesting and challenging topic and each relevant experiment would make a valuable and welcome contribution to the State-of-the-Art.

### Important Events of Our Section

- **The ebci** vi chaired by N. Kalogerakis & F. Fava will be held from June 29 to July 2, 2015 (Chania, GR). 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.
- Environmental Biotechnology section of EFB will hold its general assembly and expert meeting at ebci on **Wednesday 1st of July at 1 PM** at ebci vi. I count on your presence and active participation!
- The **ICEEM 08** is organized by Carmen Teodossiu 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](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. 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. You can find more information at: [http://www.esbp2015.org/](http://www.esbp2015.org/)
- **Ecomondo** 19th International Trade Fair of Material & Energy Recovery and Sustainable Development in Rimini (IT) 3-6 Nov. 2014. 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/](http://en.ecomondo.com/).
- The IV Congress organized by **SOLABIAA** (the Latin American Society of Environmental and Algal Biotechnology). SOLABIAA is a young and in consolidation society that focused in the areas of Environmental Biotechnology, Algal Biotechnology and Cleaner and Sustainable Bioprocesses. The 4th Congress, to be held in November 2015 in the city of Florianópolis, Brazil, will be another step to extend and disseminate the activities of the Society, consolidating its operations in Latin American territory. Congress website and information: [http://www.congresso2015.solabiaa.com.br/](http://www.congresso2015.solabiaa.com.br/)

### Job Market

- Cranfield Water Science Institute is looking to appoint a new Lecturer in Applied Chemistry to work across our interests in wastewater treatment and micropollutants analysis. Further details here: [https://jobs.cranfield.ac.uk/wd/plsql/wd_portal.show?p_web_site_id=4009&p_web_page_id=21947](https://jobs.cranfield.ac.uk/wd/plsql/wd_portal.show?p_web_site_id=4009&p_web_page_id=21947)
- The MELissa PhD program (POMP) is officially open. The POMP program is financed by the European Space Agency and is organized to (co-) finance a number of PhD students with the objective to carry out research in the MELissa technology domain. The webpage is designed as a platform for students to prepare their applications and can be found here: [www.melissafoundation.org](http://www.melissafoundation.org)
- The Institute for Environmental Genomics and Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, USA is looking for postdoctoral fellows. Candidates should have strong background, interests, and experience in microbiology, microbial ecology, soil science, theoretical ecology, and/or metagenomics. Additional experience in bioinformatics, mathematics, computer science, and/or statistics is desirable. Contact: Dr. Jizhong Zhou, jzhoulab@gmail.com

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