

Memorandum of Understanding

On the need of one strong voice for plant science in Europe

between the
European Plant Science Organisation, EPSO

and the
Federation of European Societies of Plant Biologists, FESPB

At a meeting of representatives from EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, and FESPB, the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biologists, in Brussels at the 5th April 2007, both organizations promoted the vision that European plant sciences require a single and clear voice in Europe. Both organizations see a unique window of opportunity to develop the interaction between EPSO and FESPB for promoting plant science in Europe over the coming years.

EPSO has a solely academic membership of 185 research institutes, universities and research departments from 27 countries in Europe and beyond, representing over 24 000 plant researchers and staff. In addition, EPSO has 1 200 personal members. FESPB currently represents 32 National Societies with over 3000 members, 11 corporate members and 6 affiliated scientific journals.

The mission of EPSO is to promote plant science and plant scientists, to represent plant scientists in discussions about future plant science programme priorities across Europe, to provide an authoritative source of independent information on plant science, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science.

The mission of FESPB is to advance research, education and exchange of information in plant biology across Europe. FESPB promotes training of plant scientists at all levels to meet current and future challenges in all areas of plant biology.

To achieve its mission, EPSO advises policy and decision makers at national and European level on science policy, in the Initiative for Science in Europe and the European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future'. EPSO supports plant scientists via the EPSO conferences including support grants for junior and eastern scientists, workshops, tutorships and as information broker via *EPSO News* and its website.

To achieve its mission, FESPB holds major biannual congresses with over a 1000 delegates. FESPB sponsors plenary lectures and promotes the participation of early career plant biologists from Eastern Europe through 30 travel grants per meeting. In addition, FESPB promotes excellence through two awards to young post doctoral researchers.

EPSO and FESPB recognize the need for a strong European voice and joint efforts that, in addition to scientific and educational matters, develop strategies and objectives for support of plant science across Europe. Both organizations therefore encourage their members to work together to achieve common goals in the furthering of plant science.

Wilhelm Gruissem
EPSO President
Zurich, 13.10.2008

Jan Schjoerring
Previous FESPB President
Copenhagen, 13.10.2008

Jose Pio Beltran
FESPB President
Valencia, 13.10.2008