

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research
Directorate B – European Research Area:
Research Programmes and Capacity
Mr. Robert Jan Smits – Director
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

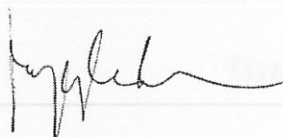
11 December 2007

Re: Joint Declaration of EMBC and EMBO

Dear Mr Smits,

Please find enclosed Joint Declaration of EMBC (European Molecular Biology Conference) and EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization) concerning The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Marja Makarow
President EMBC



Dr. Isabella Beretta
Secretary General EMBC



Prof. Hermann Bujard
Executive Director EMBO

Cc: Mr. Massimo Serpieri



Joint Declaration

by

European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) and

European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)

on

The European Charter for Researchers and

The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

November 2007

EMBC and EMBO maintain funding programmes at the international, European and national level with the aim of supporting research of the highest quality. Our organizations are recognised for the open and transparent selection and assessment procedures carried out by international and interdisciplinary panels. We promote international mobility and various aspects of career development through structured funding programmes. Our research support is based on international competition because scientific exchange does not know national boundaries and we fund the best researchers independent of nationality.

In the global context the aspect of mobility is essential and goes beyond Europe. We are very well aware how mobility depends on the adequacy of working conditions. Therefore we have always strived to provide the best conditions for researchers to carry out research in the best institutions worldwide. Until there is greater coordination, we believe that each funder should have flexible schemes to best meet the interest of the researchers they support. To this end we continually evaluate our funding policies.

We are aware that within Europe, there are efforts to modernise, harmonise and simplify the coordination of social security schemes as well as the European Commission's proposal for a directive on improving the portability of supplementary pension rights. These are important aspects of the global labour market of which the employment of scientists is only one element. Also the young scientists supported by EMBC would benefit from such a development. Our organizations would like to contribute to the effort of generating additional international opportunities through our international funding programmes, which includes in a broader context e.g. technical personnel and other positions.

We welcome the efforts of the European Commission towards improving the career trajectories of scientists in Europe. However, we are concerned about this issue at the global level. We believe that we are working towards the same aims of establishing the best possible landscape for the international scientific community based solely on excellence. In so doing we not only contribute to the international development of sciences but also to increase the attractiveness of the research profession and ultimately to the strengthening of the European Research Area.

A prosperous scientific environment includes rights and duties. The general principles applicable to funders, employers and researchers as mentioned in the document of the European Commission are very basic principles, which the signatories to this Declaration support. We welcome the fact that these issues have now been taken up in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.