

Dear colleagues and friends,

2017 has rapidly started and our section has committed to a large series of activities and events. Enjoy the reading of the first Newsletter of this year. I hope to meet you at one of our EFB events and follow us on twitter!

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Corvini

NEWS FROM EFB

Executive board The executive board of the EFB was held on the 4th of February in Barcelona (Spain). The President (M. Uhlen) and the three Vice-Presidents (J. Cole, P. Corvini and D. Mattanovich) have been elected for another two year-term. The financial report 2016 and the budget 2017 were unanimously adopted. The report of the central office and EFB sections were presented. The current status of ECB 2018 in Geneva was presented by the chair G. Borchard (University of Geneva, Switzerland). The Environmental Biotechnology Section of EFB will be represented by P. Corvini, who will be part of the scientific committee. The EB section will have at least two sessions: "Environmental Biotechnology" and "Sustainable Environmental Technologies". **We welcome suggestions for the corresponding keynote speakers for these sessions (within the next 3 weeks).** The next ExBo meeting will take place on the 1st of July 2017 (Geneva, Switzerland).

NEWS FROM OUR EB SECTION

Collaboration with Asian Federation Of Biotechnology The 13th Asian Congress on Biotechnology (ACB 2017) "Bioinnovation and Bioeconomy" will be held between the 23rd-27th of July in Khon Kaen (Thailand). I. Frebort, head of the Regional Branch Office (Olomouc, Czech Republic), and the EB Section have been asked to coorganize an EFB-AFOB joint session. This is dedicated to biocatalysis and plant biotechnology. R. Wohlgemuth (Merck, Chair of the Industrial Biocatalysis Section) will give the keynote lecture. There are also several topics of our research fields, e.g. Agricultural and Food Biotechnology, Bioenergy Biorefinery, Environmental Biotechnology. Our section strongly encourages the active participation of our members. Please submit abstracts and let us know if you want to join the EFB delegation. Read more [here](#).

ICEEM09 highlights R. Meckenstock (Duisburg Essen University, Germany) will give a testimonial on his ERC Advanced grant EcOILogy - Microbial life in oil. In addition, he will give advices on successful application for ERC grants as reviewer and grantee!

Our section has engaged in supporting the participation of young scientists. Special fees of 250

euro/person will be available for a selected number of 50 PhD students (under 30 years).

Special issues in New Biotechnology Preparation of the ISEB Conference Special Issue is progressing, co-edited by I. Ferrer, J. Garcia, L. Chrzanowski and P. Corvini. Maintaining and increasing the quality of our articles in our official journal is important. We need volunteers to review some manuscripts and already acknowledge these volunteers.

New member of our section Alex Jousset is assistant professor at the University of Utrecht (The Netherlands). He is a microbial ecologist interested in the factors affecting the growth and activity of plant beneficial bacteria.

Publication from EB section

Microbiome Dynamics of a Polychlorobiphenyl (PCB) Historically Contaminated Marine Sediment under Conditions Promoting Reductive Dechlorination
Matturro B, Ubaldi C, Rossetti S (2016).

A recent study from the Water Research Institute (IRSA-CNR) demonstrated for the first time the bioremediation potential of one the largest Sites of National Interest (SIN) in Italy (Mar Piccolo, Taranto). A long-term microcosm study revealed that autochthonous bacteria are able to efficiently reduce the level of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) contamination with relevant implications on the selection of sustainable bioremediation strategies to clean-up the site. The analysis of the core microbiome of the contaminated sediment revealed the identity of the microbial key players whose activity halved the main PCB congeners thus strongly contributing to the reduction of the toxicity of the PCB contamination. Read the study at [Frontiers in Microbiology](#) website.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF OUR SECTION

These are the coming events of our Section in chronological order. *Check and earmark the dates!*

6th International Biosorption and Bioremediation Symposium - BioBio 2017 (Prague, 25-29 June 2017) Since 1995 this symposium is organised by our colleague K. Demnerova (ICTP) and her team. Each 3-5 years, this meeting highlights the newest scientific advancements and cutting-edge methodological

approaches in bioremediation and biodegradation. The present edition is organised under the patronage of the EB Section of EFB. Our section will organise two sessions on "Microorganisms in Wastewater Treatment" and "Bio-electrochemical Systems for Remediation of Polluted Systems". More info [here](#). Abstract submission deadline: **Feb. 13, 2017. Only one week left!**

The **International Conference on Biotechniques for Air Pollution Control and Bioenergy** (20-21, July, 2017), held at the Conference Center of La Coruña (Spain), is organized by Prof. C. Kennes and his research group (University of La Coruña) under the auspices of the EFB.

The **9th International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management (ICEEM 09)** will be held at Bologna University (6-9, Sept, 2017). The conference is organised by the EB Section of EFB together with Bologna University and the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi and chaired by C. Teodosiu, F. Fava and P. Corvini. Several prestigious plenary and keynote speakers will contribute to this exciting programme, such as **Willy Verstraete** and **Thomas Ternes**. The sessions will be dedicated to:

- Environmental Biotechnology in the circular economy
- Water and wastewater cycles: technologies, recycling and valorisation
- Sustainable waste management and exploitation for chemicals, materials and energy recovery
- Sustainability assessments and eco-innovation
- Novel materials for environmental and energy applications
- Monitoring and modelling of environmental pollution

Abstract submission deadline: **Feb. 27, 2017**. More info [here](#).

The general **ISMET meeting (ISMET 6)** will be held in Lisbon (Portugal; 3-6 October 2017) before the regional EU-ISMET (Newcastle, 2018). More info [here](#)

Ecomondo 21th International Trade Fair of Material & Energy Recovery and Sustainable Development (Nov 2017, Rimini, Italy). F. Fava is responsible for the whole scientific programme and our Section will have several talks at this important fair. More info [here](#).

JOB MARKET

The Institute for Ecopreneurship, School of Life Sciences at FHNW (Muttens, Switzerland) has a one-year (possible extension) open Postdoc position "Speciation of selenium in reducing environments". The starting date for the position is 1st of April 2017. For further information contact [Dr. Markus Lenz](#) (+41 61 467 47 91). Applications must be submitted [here](#)

A 2-year postdoc position in microbial ecology is open at the University of Utrecht (The Netherlands). The project is part of a larger consortium dedicated to eradicating *Ralstonia solanacearum*, a pathogen threatening agriculture worldwide. Additional information about the vacancy can be obtained from [Dr. Alexandre Jousset](#).

TECO (Technological Eco-Innovations for the Quality Control and the Decontamination of Polluted Waters and Soils) is a project co-funded by the EU and coordinated by the Italian CNR, with the partnership of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI, CSIR, India). TECO's goal is to promote Europe-India collaborations by providing mobility grants to EU researchers, engineers and experts willing to spend up to 4 months in Indian research institutes or private companies. Primary target are new applied technologies for water and soil decontamination. TECO will be active until December 2018, with a call already open for 2017. It is an opportunity for PhD students, postdocs and researchers, but also to building up new collaborations or consolidating existing ones among industries, private companies and stakeholders. More info [here](#) or writing to [M. Zacchini](#)

Do not hesitate to announce your jobs and internships to [A. Scoma](#).

SPREAD THE WORD

Sustain the EB Section of EFB!

Make your colleagues working on Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology subscribe to the Environmental Biotechnology section. Registration is for free! To become a member visit to the webpage www.efb-central.org/index.php/3010hcet/register fill in the form and **tick the box Environmental Biotechnology** to be listed as one of our Section members.

dekonta INOFEA



Become visible to more than **3500** professional customers!

Your company is active in the field of biotechnology for wastewater treatment, bioremediation or biomass/biowaste conversion or you offer products and technologies for R&D institutions? Advertise in our bimonthly newsletter and on our homepage. Contact us and make it your space!