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EABA – European Algae Biomass Association

Scope and objectives – main structure

The EABA draft Statutes are downloadable from the EABA web-site (www.eaba-association.eu). The description below explains further the draft scope and objectives of the association. It also summarises the content of the draft Statutes that will be adopted at the forthcoming 1st EABA Conference and General Assembly that will be held in Florence next 3–4th of June 2009.

General objective

The general objective of the European Algae Biomass Association (EABA) is to promote mutual interchange and cooperation in the field of algae biomass production and use, including biofuels uses and all other utilisations. It aims at creating, developing and maintaining solidarity and links between its Members and at defending their interests at European and international level. Its main target will be to act as a catalyst for fostering synergies among scientists, industrialists and decision makers in order to promote the development of research, technology and industrial capacities in the field of algae.

In this perspective EABA intends to create a basis for:

1. Establishing a permanent liaison with EU and EU Member States' Institutions
2. Defining and expressing a common position on EU issues (legislation, product specifications, trade and sustainability standards, etc.), acting as a technology neutral platform
3. Representing the European algae biomass industry and scientific community at international level
4. Spreading scientific information and knowledge about algae biomass and biofuels production
5. Making algae research and industry alive in public debate
6. Promoting investment and financial support in the field of algae
7. Helping the structuring and planning of research and industrial development on algae
8. Fostering scientific freedom as well as responsibility
9. Studying all economic and technical problems which may impact the algae sector in the European Union and related countries and studying all the direct and indirect environmental, social and economic effects of algae production and use
10. Breaking scientific boundaries on algae
11. Promoting the exchange of scientific information and the publication of sound articles
12. Taking all reasonable measures to defend the interests of its Members

1. Establishing a permanent liaison with EU and Member States' Institutions

One of the main tasks of the EABA is to maintain permanent liaison with the institutions of the European Union, in particular the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament. Equivalent links will be kept with national governments in EU Member States, including those of countries neighbouring the EU. Such national liaisons will be ensured directly and in support of the national members. The Association aims to raise the attention of EU and Member States' authorities on the potential of algae biomass as biofuels and bioenergy source and to promote policies and norms favouring the industrial development of the algae sector. In particular EABA will focus on the national implementation of the new EU Directive on Renewable Energies, which contains, among others, indications on "*biofuels produced from waste, lignocellulosic biomass, (...) and algae*", together with present biofuels technologies.

The Association will also monitor existing and future EU and national legislations, call for tenders, research and technology platforms initiatives which may impact the algae sector and its various production chains. Funding Members of the Association have already proposed a project and requested funding through a specific call for proposal of the EU VII Framework Programme which has been submitted end of November 2008, and which may be of support of the activities of the Association.

2. Defining and expressing a common position on EU issues (legislation, product specifications, trade and sustainability standards, etc.), acting as a technology neutral platform

EABA promotes the mutual understanding among the various components of the Association and the definition of common positions of the EU algae industry and scientific community to be expressed at EU and international level. The Association is technology neutral and does not aim at favouring a particular kind of processing or of final use of algae biomass. This approach reflects the fact that all the algae production technologies and all the final uses of algae biomass are interdependent (the economic viability of a nutritional or cosmetic outlet depending on the added value coming from a bioenergy use of its residues and vice versa, for instance) and need to be considered in this context. One of the main targets in this context is to perform all those activities (meetings, conference calls, exchange of information, creation of Ad Hoc groups, etc.) necessary to elaborate a common stance of the EU algae sector, across all various kind of algae raw materials, technologies and final uses in order to try to speak with a common voice at EU and international level on all issues impacting the sector.

3. Representing the European algae biomass industry and scientific community at international level

The Association aims as well at representing the EU industry and research community beyond EU boundaries, at international level and vis-à-vis various international bodies, obviously without preventing any individual initiative of its members but rather trying to co-ordinate such initiatives so to amplify and increase the impact of the overall action of the EU algae sector.

EABA has established permanent contacts also with some international organisations such as the FAO (the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation) and the UNCTAD (the UN Conference on Trade and Development) which are directly involved in the algae biomass sector. EABA aims at creating co-operative links also with other national, European and international organizations involved in domains relevant to algae, including the US Algal Biomass Organisation (ABO) with which EABA has already established communication.

The Association will represent EU research and act as its flag in the international arena and towards sister Associations in the US, Brazil, Argentina and in other parts of the world.

4. Spreading scientific information and knowledge about algae biomass production

One of the main goals of EABA is to spread scientific information and knowledge about algae biomass and biofuels production in public organisations and in companies, in university laboratories and in research and development institutes as well as among decision makers. The main idea is to serve the needs of the EU and global algae scientific and industrial communities by delivering reliable information and networking tools to researchers, scientists, industrialists and investors in the EU and worldwide.

5. Making algae research and industry alive in public debate

EABA intends to make the public opinion and decision makers more aware about the opportunities provided by the development of algae technology.

In particular, the Association will try to encourage the spreading of reliable scientific information to the public and to decision makers in a move as to make algae research and industry alive in public debate and in the press relying a positive image based on correct and verified scientific realities.

EABA will create a logistic and Internet platform for:

- the publication of an information bulletin
- the development of permanently updated "Web" database of all public existing studies pilots and trials on algae accessible to the members

6. Promoting investment and financial support in the field of algae

Increasing public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of algae biomass for the production of bioenergy, biodiesel and all other outlet represents the main step necessary in order to promote investment and financial support in the field of algae.

EABA aims to create a permanent interaction with all the bodies and organisations promoting and coordinating research and development funds in the field of algae. Link have been already established with the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Development, with Commission DG TREN and with the EU Biofuels Technology Platform. The Association also aims to play a catalyst role with private organisations and funds in order to promote investment in algae technologies.

7. Helping the structuring and planning of research and industrial development on algae

In general EABA intends to promote the link between Industry and Research institutes and universities active in the field with parallel industrial initiatives and demonstration activities such as industrial pilots laying down bridges from fundamental research to industrial development.

The goal of the Association is also to help the structuring and planning of research and industrial development on algae, in a technology neutral approach, i.e. respecting the different approaches and the various research pathways undertaken by its members and by the scientific community in general.

8. Fostering scientific freedom as well as responsibility.

EABA aims at encouraging sound and correct communication on algae acting as a scientific and industrial reference at EU level. An important objective of the Association is to contribute to the

progress and application of science in the field of algae biomass by creating a solid platform for delivering reference information and tools that build insights and can enable advancement in research and in industrial development. The aim is to foster scientific and industrial activities and to uphold the freedom of research, the interest of scientists, and the need for support of research and pilots. In parallel the Association will assist in the establishment, and the subsequent maintenance, of internationally acceptable academic standards in science and technology in the field of algae, among others in order to avoid that unverified or unverifiable data are disseminated in the EU scientific and industrial community.

9. Studying all economic and technical problems which may impact the algae sector in the European Union and related countries

The Association intends to play an essential role in order to contribute to study all economic and technical problems which may impact the algae sector in the European Union and related countries. The advancement of research in critical fields and in the most problematic steps of the production chains requires scientific co-ordination and mutual exchange of information, investment, co-ordination and of different expertises: EABA's goal is to create a solid basis in order to promote the advancement of innovative algae based technologies necessary to solve all technical and eventual economic problems within a technology neutral approach. Particular attention will be paid to the environmental impact of algae biomass growth (including also toxicity aspects) and generally to all sustainability aspects of algae biomass production. Another field of action concerns the follow up and actions to be taken in the elaboration of standards and norms (CEN norms, EU guidances and Directives, Novel Foods, etc.) for food and feed uses of algae as well as for their final bioenergy and biofuels uses. EABA will also study all the direct and indirect environmental, social and economic effects of algae production and use, i.e. their impact in terms of sustainability, to avoid or minimise potential negative side effects.

10. Breaking scientific boundaries on algae

EABA emphasises the role of exchange and dialogue as a generator of industrial and scientific progress. The Association will welcome and push change and innovation, challenging the status quo. It will encourage entrepreneurial spirit, learn-from-mistakes exchange and promote solution oriented positive approaches. It will act as a reference organisation for reliable industrial and scientific information in the field of algae biomass and bioenergy, at same time it will also constantly look for new ideas, and value "out-of-the-box" thinking. The Association will be open to all the different algae biomass, bioenergy and biofuels research and production pathways within an approach that gives value to all of the players of the team in order to contribute breaking scientific boundaries.

EABA intends to establish a boundary-less European and international forum for exchange and confrontation encouraging people to work collaboratively across businesses, research sectors, hierarchy and functions. It will constantly seek to break down barriers between organizations, making its members supportive of each other, seeking partnerships among scientists and entrepreneurs.

One of the main goals of EABA will be to act as a **networking platform** for the EU algae sector so to increase communication and transfers of information between specialists of different scientific aspects of algae biomass, for example stimulating common projects and networks. EABA will also encourage the establishment of links between Industry and research laboratories for further applications, new processes and advanced materials. In this perspective EABA will co-ordinate and support:

- the organization of workshops or conferences,

- the holding of courses or of tutorial seminars,
- the organisation of mutual exchanges of scientists and engineers,
- the organization of an annual meeting in the form of a scientific symposium,
- the eventual creation of scientific prizes

11. Promoting the exchange of scientific information and publication of sound articles

EABA aims at establishing a Committee of Publications in order to issue a periodical bulletin with the most recent developments of research on algae biomass and related applications.

12. Taking all reasonable measures to defend the interests of its Members

Finally EABA aims at taking all reasonable measures to defend the interests of its Members and all initiatives which may contribute to furthering the goals of the Association.

EABA Main Structure

The Association is set to act as a platform for exchange and dialogue and as a generator of industrial and scientific progress on the basis of the initiatives of its members, but it also needs to be able to make bold moves and take influential positions at political level once algae biomass is discussed in EU or national fora. Its organisational aim is to be efficient, keep things simple and minimise bureaucracy.

EABA should be governed by the following organisational bodies:

- General Assembly
- President and Vice-President(s)
- Honorary President (an outstanding personality to be eventually identified also at a later stage)
- Steering Board
- Scientific Committee
- Industry Committee
- Secretariat

General Assembly

That should meet at least once a year, gathering all the members of the Association. Only industrial EABA full members (not observers) can vote. The General Assembly:

- defines EABA's general strategies,
- elects the President, and the Vice President(s),
- elects and, if need be, revokes the Members of the Steering Board, and their substitutes,
- elects and, if need be, revokes the Members of the Scientific and of the Industry Committees,
- approves the balance sheet of the previous year,
- approves the budget proposal for the following year, which will constitute the basis for the calculation of members' contributions

Furthermore, the General Assembly, on proposals from the Steering Board, approves:

- any amendments to the Statutes of the EABA,
- the exclusion of Members

President and Vice-President

The President shall be a person who disposes of sufficient knowledge and experience of the algae biomass research and industrial development sector. The President of EABA shall only defend the global interests of the Association. The President of EABA shall chair the Steering Board and the General Assembly in a neutral and objective manner. The President is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Steering Board.

Honorary President

An honorary President can be eventually appointed on the basis of a voluntary demand formulated by a well-known international personality which may campaign in favour of the development of the algae biomass sector.

Steering Board

The Steering Board is composed of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine Board Members, appointed by the General Assembly. The Steering Board, among others:

- can submit any proposal to the General Assembly of EABA,
- implements the general strategies defined by EABA General Assembly,
- decides on the admission of new members, after having informed the General Assembly,
- formulates positions,
- decides on strategies, actions and representations,
- delegates responsibilities to the President, Vice-President or to the Executive Director,
- submits all proposals about the Statutes that need to be approved by the General Assembly,
- fixes the level of the annual Membership subscriptions on the basis of the following year's budget proposal adopted by the General Assembly.
- creates and dissolves Working Groups.

Scientific Committee

It shall be appointed directly by the General Assembly, and represent the forum of exchange, discussion and decision of the scientists involved in algae related research. It should also act as Publication Committee independently validating scientific articles and studies about algae biomass. Its decisions should be validated by the Steering Committee, with the exception of its actions as Publication Committee, and implemented by the Secretariat. It is composed by at least 75% of Scientific Members of the EABA.

Industry Committee

It shall be appointed directly by the General Assembly, and represent the forum of exchange, discussion and decision of the representatives of algae related industries. Its decisions should be validated by the Steering Committee and implemented by the Secretariat. It is composed by at least 75% of Industrial Members of the EABA.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is lead by an Executive Director who is in charge of the administration of the EABA and of the implementation of the day-to-day actions of the Association and of the management of the EABA budget.

The Executive Director is responsible to the President and to the Executive Board and assists him/her in the implementation of his/her mission carrying out the tasks he is entrusted with by the President and the Executive Board.

Membership

EABA membership is subdivided in three levels: Full Members (i.e. Industrial Members, Scientific Members and Individual Members). Also observers – previously defined as Associate Members – can participate to the work of the Association without voting rights.

All the full members of the EABA are located or have relevant activities in Europe, i.e. in the European Union, or in a country candidate to become a part of the European Union, including the EEE and Israel.

1. Scientific Members

The Scientific Members of EABA are non-profit research institutes, universities, research and academic centres active in the geographical areas defined above, with proven scientific activities, interest and/or publications in the field of algae biomass. Similar scientific legal entities coming from countries outside Europe –as defined above – can become Scientific Observers within the Association.

**Initial yearly Membership fee: 150€*

2. Industrial Members

The Industrial Members of EABA are companies, pilot projects, algae-biomass technology providers, research groups and final users as the case may be, that are able to produce or contribute to produce, transform or use algae biomass in Europe – as defined above. European companies or legal entities that have already established precise plans of investment in view of producing or transforming or using algae biomass at industrial level can also become Industrial Members.

Similar industrial legal entities coming from countries outside Europe –as defined above – can become Industrial Observers within the Association.

**Initial Membership fee is subdivided in a flat fee and a variable fee:*

- *Flat fee:: 2200€: for large and medium companies, 500€: for small companies (*with less than 4 employees as proposed distinction based on company turnover, investment, n. of employees)*
- *Variable fee: rate to be defined on the basis of the annual turnover of a company or, in case of a project on the basis of installed or projected industrial capacity of algae biomass*

3. Individual Members

Individuals (e.g. individual research fellows) with proven interest in the development of the algae biomass research and industry can become individual members.

**Initial yearly Membership fee: 150€*

4. Observers

Can become EABA Observers sectoral associations, consultancies, traders, trade associations, investors that are active in the field of algae biomass. In general can become Observers all the legal entities or individuals that because of their geographical situation outside Europe cannot become full Members of the Association.

**Membership fee: Flat fee of 1500€ plus variable fee to be determined on proportion of turnover, investment, etc. – see above –*

5. Sponsors

Any EABA Member or observer can become Sponsor of the Association. Sponsor status is reserved to Members which voluntarily support an extraordinary contribution whose minimum level is fixed by the Steering Committee every year.

**The initial Support Membership fee is fixed at 6.000€.*

**The membership levels and fees detailed above are indicative. Final membership levels and respective financial contributions levels are to be defined by the first Meeting of the General Assembly and Steering Board.*

New Members

Only those legal entities or individual companies satisfying all the criteria specified above can become a new member of the EABA.

The Steering Board analyses and decides on new membership of EABA.