

**Interview with Willy De Greef
EuropaBio Secretary General**

Last week, the organisers of the European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology 2009 (EFIB 2009) sat down with EuropaBio's Secretary General Willy De Greef capture his impression of EFIB 2008 and where EFIB 2009 is going.

What was the most important result of EFIB 2008?

EFIB 2008 led to the unexpected conclusion that of all factors impacting the emergence of the bio-based economy, it is the reliable supply of affordable feedstock which is the biggest cause for concern. This requires substantial changes in agricultural policy. The need for close coordination between industrial and agricultural policy as a prerequisite for the successful development of industrial biotechnology is likely to become a defining issue in the field.

What is the central theme of EFIB 2009?

EFIB 2009 has been organised to give particular attention to policy issues and financial issues and try to come up with solutions for business and policy makers.

What is unique in your mind about EFIB 2009?

EFIB is unique in that the programme integrates all aspects in the "farm to product" chain. All aspects of the value chain from farming, to feedstock, to trade and applications are covered in EFIB 2009. EFIB as a conference brings policy makers together with economic actors and the financial community. EFIB is unique in Europe in this way.

About EFIB 2008

Over two hundred sixty delegates from twenty three countries from industry, research, policy making and investment fields attended the inaugural European Forum of Industrial Biotechnology held in Brussels from 15-17 September 2008. Organized jointly by EuropaBio and IntertechPira the event featured 30 leading speakers who assessed the prospects for industrial biotechnology in Europe. For more information: www.efibforum.com