



Press Release

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ESOF 2008 Steering Committee Announces Objectives for Barcelona Meeting

ESOF2008 will take place July 18 – 22 in Barcelona, Spain. The [ESOF2008](#) Co-Chairs, Enric Banda and Ingrid Wüning, recently led the first meeting of their Steering Committee, during which key appointments and decisions were made regarding Europe's most important interdisciplinary science conference.

Both co-chairs are scientists with extensive research backgrounds and are actively involved in science policy issues in Europe. Wüning is a biologist (Tübingen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston) and responsible for the Department of Science and Research of Robert Bosch Stiftung. Banda is a geophysicist who has focused his research to the study of lithosphere structure. He has also dedicated time to science policy planning at the Spanish and European levels and currently is the Director of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation. In January 2007 he will become President of Euroscience, Europe's grass-roots science organization.

"Europe is home to some of the world's leading researchers, in the sciences and humanities", said Banda. "Barcelona will be the platform to present and discuss the importance and relevance of their work."

"ESOF has become the meeting point for European scientists and politicians to meet," stated Wüning. "We will ensure that this meaningful dialogue continues."

Carl-Johan Sundberg of Sweden's Karolinska Institute was the Chair of ESOF's first edition held in 2004. As a member of the current Steering Committee he added, "ESOF is designed to contribute to Europe's development as a knowledge-based economy. Innovators—business people and scientists—and science communicators – journalists and public relations specialists —also have a place at ESOF2008."

Sir Colin L. Berry was confirmed as the Chair of the Programme Committee, a key position which ensures the scientific rigour and relevance of ESOF's programming. Sir Berry is an Emeritus Professor of Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology at Queen Mary, University of London. He was knighted in 1993 for services to the sciences; that same year he was also elected to the German Academy of Sciences.

"My efforts will focus on developing a programme of distinguished plenary speakers, high-quality bottom-up scientific sessions, and genuine debate on hot scientific issues in European science."

A short list of Nobel Prize winners and leading business innovators to headline the programme was developed and approved. The Programme Committee is committed to presenting new directions in research. A Call for Proposals will be launched in early 2007.

ESOF2008 will take place at the Barcelona trade fair, Fira de Barcelona with ample capacity for the 5 000 registered participants expected by the Steering Committee.

The remaining current Steering Committee members are (in alphabetical order): Dr. Patricia Boya, Researcher at the Spanish Research Council; Claus Masden, Head of the Public Affairs Department, European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere; Tony Mayer, Science Policy Consultant; and Dr. Rolf Tarrach, Rector of the University of Luxembourg.