



Press Release

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Spanish-German Co-Chairs will Guarantee Best Science at ESOF2008

Enric Banda and Ingrid Wüning, the co-chairs of [ESOF2008](#) to be held in Barcelona July 18 - 22, 2008, today “accepted the torch” from the present organizers in Munich, Germany. “We will build on the success of ESOF2006 to ensure the development of science in Europe,” promised Banda. There are 1 563 registered participants in the Munich event, representing 49 countries, including the broad range of leading scientists who are presenting sessions, and 452 accredited journalists.

Banda and Wüning form a dynamic partnership to lead Europe’s most important interdisciplinary science gathering. Their complimentary experience, abilities and dedication to ESOF and its principles will contribute to the ongoing process of creating a true platform for debate on science and technology.

“As co-chairs, we can ensure a balance between a strong participation of Spanish researchers, institutions and civil society with a rich diversity of European involvement,” says Banda. “In this way, we will work for the continuous development of ESOF and the European research area.”

Agreed Wüning, “our priority is bringing together the best scientists in terms of their qualifications. We will ensure that all of our thinking, planning and execution is focused on showcasing the best of Europe’s science through an exciting program.”

The natural sciences and the humanities will both be presented in Barcelona. The co-chairs will emphasize the involvement of young researchers, all of Europe, as well as international participation.

Both co-chairs are scientists with extensive research backgrounds. Wüning is a biologist (Tübingen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston) and responsible for the department 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.

The ESOF 2008 Project Team has been selected and will start work in September 2006. The selection of committees is projected to be completed by late October 2006 and initial meetings to be held by November. The Fira de Barcelona, the Barcelona trade fair site, located in the city center on Montjuic mountain is the selected venue. The leading public and private science entities in Spain have already committed their support to ESOF2008, and the co-chairs aim to involve civil society, including business and government.

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