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**DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY**

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Working Party on Biotechnology

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY
(WPB)**

**Held at the OECD Headquarters
on 11-13 February 2008**

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23RD SESSION
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ITEM 1: OPENING STATEMENTS AND REMARKS

1. The Secretariat (Mr. I. Gillespie) welcomed delegates. He apologised on behalf of the Director of DSTI, Ms. Susanne Huttner, who was unable to make opening remarks at the WPB meeting, as she was accompanying the OECD Secretary-General on his visit to Estonia (one of the candidate countries for accession to the OECD).

2. Mr. Gillespie reported progress developing the OECD Innovation Strategy as well as describing some of its salient features.

3. The WPB has significant relevant work in train or planned, including on knowledge markets, collaborative mechanisms, emerging research, industrial biotechnology and metrics. Linkages with the Innovation Strategy might usefully be explored as the WP considers their PWB for 2009-2010.

4. Mr. Gillespie also reported on progress to follow-up the Noordwijk Medicines Agenda. The OECD Executive Committee had decided to establish an open-ended *ad hoc* group to consider whether and how to take further work forward at the OECD level. The WPB will be kept informed of progress.

5. The Secretariat also reported on the upcoming OECD Council meeting at Ministerial level to be held on 4-5 June 2008. OECD Ministers have mandated work on environmental and other effects of biofuel production and use. The Biotechnology Division is developing and leading the elements of work related to the prospects for scientific and technological progress in biofuels production. The WPB will be kept abreast of developments and outcome.

6. The Secretariat also briefly summarised progress in the Bioeconomy 2030 project (see Item 12). This project has been looking at the implications of developments in biotechnology across the economy and the WPB needs to consider whether and how to integrate emerging recommendations from the project in its work programme.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

7. Members of the Working Party on Biotechnology elected Mr. G. Jimenez-Sanchez (Mexico) as Chairman. Mr. Mark Bale (United Kingdom), Ms. Anita Eisenstadt (United States), Mr. Mikael Hirsch (Australia), Mr. Robert Main (Canada), Mr. Joerg Wadzack (Germany) and Mr. Hiroshi Yoshikura (Japan) were elected as vice chairs.

8. The Chairman (G. Jimenez-Sanchez) thanked delegates and stressed the importance of discussions to be held during the WPB meeting on the Programme of Work and Budget and encouraged delegates to strive for priorities that best serve stakeholders. The Chairman proposed, to general agreement, that the WPB introduce as a matter of course a discussion at the outset of each meeting a discussion on an

important Global issue of the day (the Chairman subsequently led a general discussion – reported under Item 23 - on key Global Issues prior to the WPB setting priorities for their 2009-2010 PWB).

ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA DSTI/STP/BIO/A(2008)2/REV1

9. The Working Party adopted the Draft Agenda.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22ND SESSION
DSTI/STP/BIO/M(2007)7

10. The Summary Record of the WPB's 22nd Session was adopted with a request for modification to the following items: Item 8 on the High-Level Forum – Medicines for Neglected and Emerging Infectious Diseases (HLF); and Item 10: *i*) Guidelines on Quality Assurance and Proficiency Testing of Molecular Genetic Tests; and *iii*) Creation of Task Force on Biomedicine and Health Innovation. Detailed revisions were agreed by the WPB [subsequently incorporated in DSTI/STP/BIO/M(2007)7/REV1].

ITEM 5: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON REPORTS

11. The Secretariat (Ms B. Callan) gave a brief overview of progress on dealing with a number of WPB reports.

12. The Chairman encouraged the Secretariat to make every effort to bring reports to completion as soon as practicable.

ITEM 6: ACCESSION PROCESS AND ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT DSTI/STP(2008)12

13. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) described the process determined by the OECD Council for accession to the Organisation as well as for so-called Enhanced Engagement with countries.

14. Chile, Estonia, Israel, the Russian Federation and Slovenia have been invited to enter into discussion on accession to the OECD. Committees are being asked to assess the extent to which candidate countries have implemented certain OECD instruments (defined in candidate country “roadmaps”) or their willingness and ability to do so. CSTP has asked WPB to carry out this process for those elements of the roadmaps arising from WPB work. The CSTP hopes to complete their own assessment in early 2009 and WPB will be required to formulate its advice in time to meet that deadline.

15. The candidate country roadmaps refer to three instruments and best practices (hereafter “guidelines”) developed by the WPB, namely *Guidelines for the Licensing of Genetic Inventions*, *Guidelines on Quality Assurance of Molecular Genetic Tests*, and *Best Practice Guidelines for Biological Resource Centres*. The Working Party will need to make assessments for each candidate country for each of these sets of guidelines as well as for *Recommendation of the Council concerning Safety Considerations for Applications of Recombinant DNA 1) Organisms in Industry, Agriculture and the Environment* [C(86)82/Final], which was developed by WPB's predecessor body (the Group of National Experts on Safety in Biotechnology).

16. The OECD Council also wishes to strengthen OECD co-operation with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa, with a view to their possible eventual membership in the OECD, through a process termed Enhanced Engagement. The timelines for this process are yet to be elucidated.

17. Accession assessment is a particular challenge for most of the WPB instruments since they are new and there is as yet little information on the level to which they have been implemented in OECD member countries. Any evaluation process will need to take their relative novelty into account.

18. Delegates noted that the different accession countries may vary considerably in terms of how they have approached the WPB instruments, if at all. They noted that candidate countries should not be judged to standards higher than those found in the OECD (though the OECD Council had referred to assessment against a “high level of OECD implementation” rather than assessment against a lowest common denominator). This posed some challenges given the general paucity of current information regarding what a “high level of OECD implementation” might be. In some cases, the test may appropriately be the “willingness and ability” of candidates to implement instruments.

19. Delegates agreed that information should be collected on the level of implementation of the four instruments in OECD member countries in parallel to the collection of information from accession candidates. Some delegates also were interested in collecting broader background information on the accession candidates’ involvement in biotechnology more generally and urged using information from previous OECD surveys.

20. Delegates agreed, in some cases subject to further consultation in capitals, with the process laid out for carrying out assessment. Briefly, this was that the Secretariat would secure a small team of expert advisers (ideally drawn from those experts involved in the articulation of WPB guidelines) to assist in the preparation of a questionnaire to be sent to candidate as well as member countries. Responses from member countries would be used to produce a “baseline” for assessment against which candidate countries would be compared. Candidate countries would be invited to the next session of WPB (November 2008) to discuss a preliminary assessment carried out by the secretariat in consultation with the retained experts. The Chairman suggested, to agreement, that a Steering Group be formed to oversee the process. Mexico and the United States (and subsequently Slovakia) volunteered to join the steering group.

21. The Working Party decided to invite Estonia and Slovenia to become observer countries to the WPB during the accession process.

ACTIONS

- Any proposals for specific experts who might advise the Secretariat were to be indicated to the Secretariat by **29 February 2008**.
- Two countries, Mexico and the United States, indicated interest in joining the **Steering Group**. Other countries are asked to indicate interest by **17 March 2008**.
- Delegates who have biotechnology contacts in Estonia and Slovenia should provide details to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

ITEM 7: IMPLEMENTATION ON GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES

DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)4

22. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) presented a Room Document version of DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)4 which included options for reporting back to Council on the implementation and continued relevance of two WPB Guidelines recently issued as Council Recommendations – the Guidelines for the Licensing of Genetic Inventions and the Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Molecular Genetic Testing.

23. The WPB had asked at its 22nd session that the Secretariat discuss with the user community the need for better dissemination of these Guidelines; the message received was that users both needed such Guidelines and are willing to help build their understanding and improve their implementation. The Room Document suggested different strategies both for improving dissemination and gathering information across countries on the impact of the Guidelines and Best Practices.

24. Delegates did not express preferences amongst the proposed options for reporting to Council. Instead they agreed to return to this issue at a subsequent meeting.

ITEM 8: OPTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK ON WATER DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)34/REV1

25. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) presented a paper that provided options for future work related to water. In discussion, and following a suggestion from Japan, delegates decided to focus on work considering how R&D opportunities in environmental biotechnology might be used more effectively in contributing to sustainable economic development. Such work would include potential applications related to water quality and sustainable water use.

26. Delegates decided that further scoping work, in consultation with experts, should be undertaken. This should include a consultation meeting with experts identified by the secretariat so that a well-honed proposal could be brought to WPB in November 2008 for decision. The WPB decided that work in this field should be incorporated in their 2009-2010 PWB.

ITEM 9: BIOSECURITY DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)29/REV1

27. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) presented a paper on options for future work on Biosecurity. In discussion, delegates supported and agreed to option 2 set out in paper DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)29/REV1, namely "*Considerations for the development of risk assessment methodologies*". The United States signalled that they expected to be able to make a voluntary contribution in support of the work proposed, which envisaged a workshop in late 2009.

28. Delegates agreed that a workshop should be held to address the issues detailed in option 2. It was also agreed that some of the aspects in option 3 in the paper – on "*Guidance for risks associated with emerging bio-science and technology*" – also should be considered during the workshop.

ITEM 10: SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

29. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) reported on ongoing discussions with the US National Academies of Science and the UK Royal Society to hold a joint conference to scope the range of policy issues related to synthetic biology. Following this conference the WPB will consider what work relating to synthetic biology might best be followed up. To prepare for this conference, it is expected that this joint steering group meeting will be held in late spring either in the Bellagio Rockefeller Foundation Centre (Italy) or in Paris. For the conference itself, NAS has managed to assure funding. This conference is planned for December in Washington DC [subsequent planning difficulties meant that the steering group meeting was shifted to October 2008. The conference is expected to take place in April 2009].

30. Delegates agreed the proposed way forward and expressed strong support to pursue work on synthetic biology.

ITEM 11: BIOMARKERS AND TARGETED THERAPIES DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)5

31. The Secretariat (Ms. M-A. Baucher) presented progress on this work. The PWB had anticipated the production of three analytical reports in this field, contingent on the provision of a significant amount of voluntary contributions. In the event, only the Netherlands had so far made a contribution, though the total sum was still well below that budgeted. Nevertheless, substantive and substantial progress had been made. Ms Baucher described ongoing efforts to develop four analytical papers on the challenges associated with the research, development and use of biomarkers. These papers will help policy makers understand the development of research and identify issues such as: challenges to improving knowledge sharing and integration for biomarkers; the evaluation of biomarkers for clinical use; and industry uptake and

strategies. A detailed plan of the analytical papers will be made available in April and the papers will be finalised by September 2008.

32. Delegates noted progress and agreed to the scope of the analytical reports. Austria, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and BIAC, expressed their interest in the project, as well as for a workshop to validate the reports. The United Kingdom proposed hosting such a workshop in Cambridge, date to be confirmed, and indicated that resources to support this would be forthcoming.

ITEM 12: BIOECONOMY 2030

33. The Secretariat (Mr. M. Osborne and Mr. A. Arundel) presented emerging findings from the Bioeconomy 2030 Project and underscored possible opportunities for future work by the Working Party on Biotechnology. Mr. Osborne explained that the International Futures Programme Secretariat was developing the draft synthesis report for the Project which they intend to present in June 2008 at the next meeting of the Task Force on the Bioeconomy Project. This report would draw upon experts' reports and in-house work, including scenario development.

34. Mr. Arundel presented the current progress of the project in regards to many policy areas and underlined some possible implications for the Working Party on Biotechnology, including the need to involve global players and to take into account the global dimensions of biotechnology. He highlighted a number of areas of work that WPB might consider, including developing internationally-accepted life cycle analysis, methods and principles to guide development of incentives in industrial biotechnology; continuing work in regards to international standards for the validation of biomarkers, systems biology and pharmacogenetics; expanding the evaluation of non-IP drivers for innovation; determining the policy implications of concentration in the agricultural biotechnology sector; and evaluating incentives to encourage major therapeutic advances. The Chairman observed that many of these suggestions already were a close match for the current priorities of the WPB.

35. Delegates expressed their interest in this project and highlighted the need to consider the areas where this project and its novel findings might be considered for integration into the future work of WPB.

ITEM 13: MEDIUM-TERM ORIENTATIONS SURVEY

36. The Secretariat (Mr. I. Gillespie) presented the OECD's Medium-Term Orientations (MTO) survey results for the biotechnology output area. He explained that the survey asked delegations to indicate whether the amount of work that should be carried out for each output area should be increased, decreased or remain the same. Mr. Gillespie explained that the result of this evaluation was distributed throughout the Organisation and that it could possibly have budget implications (for part I resources) in the long term. The message for biotechnology was that a high level of work should be sustained. The previous MTO exercise had concluded that the level of biotechnology work should be increased.

37. Delegates noted the ranking of the work on Biotechnology and concluded that though the biotechnology output area was not as "highly" ranked [in terms of doing more work] as in the previous exercise, there was no reason to be concerned, especially in light of the quality and importance of the work being carried out. Delegates also expressed interest in improving the visibility and impact of WPB and its work in the Organisation.

ITEMS 14-15: PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY 2009-2010
DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)6

38. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) provided an initial overview of what WPB's Programme of Work and Budget for 2009-2010 might look like, based on inputs so far. He noted that this draft of the 2009-2010 PWB had benefited from a first round discussion of possible projects and their prioritisation by the WPB at the 22nd session in November 2007 as well as by the WPB's subordinate bodies. He explained how to understand the template used for the PWB (*e.g.* white and grey zones, differences between output results and intermediary outputs, *etc.*).

39. Mr. Gillespie said that though a number of countries had indicated their preliminary rankings of the different proposed output results others had made it clear that they had so far had insufficient time for adequate consultation in capitals.

ITEM 16: HEALTH-RELATED WORK

DSTI/STP/BIO/A(2008)3
CE(2008)6

40. The Secretariat (Ms. Callan) described the background to the creation of the new Task Force on Biomedicine and Health Innovation (TFBHI). She presented the proposed mandate for the Task Force which was created by the WPB to develop a Synthesis of lessons on health innovation from past WPB/WG-HHRB work, to provide inputs to the OECD Innovation Strategy, and to identify future priorities for the WPB on health issues. In addition, she went over the Agenda for the first meeting of the TFBHI.

41. Delegates noted the creation of the Task Force and confirmed the Mandate. They noted the need to keep this Mandate under review as future work is identified and new analytical work is needed. They urged the Secretariat to be dynamic and forward looking as a synthesis of lessons and policy messages is developed. Delegates also expressed the importance of contributing to the Innovation Strategy and discussed how to ensure co-ordination with their own work.

ITEM 17: BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)7
DSTI/STP/BIO/M(2007)6
DSTI/STP/BIO/A(2008)4

42. Mr. M. Hirsch (Chairman of the Task Force on Biotechnology for Sustainable Industrial Development) presented the new mandate proposed for the Task Force for WPB's consideration and agreement.

43. Delegates adopted the mandate and agreed to the new name of the Task Force – *Task Force on Industrial Biotechnology*.

44. The Chairman noted that it is important to think about what can realistically be delivered within available resources and set priorities accordingly. He urged delegates to focus on a small number of work areas that are likely to have high impact rather than diluting effort to a large number of activities. The Chairman also said that WPB needs to build some flexibility into its programme of work, so that it has some room to manoeuvre in the next biennium.

ITEM 18: KNOWLEDGE MARKETS WORKSHOP

DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)27/REV2

45. The Secretariat (Ms. Callan) reported on progress developing the issues paper for the knowledge markets workshop. Delegates were invited to contribute either substantive input or make suggestions as to

the execution of this project. Delegates noted that the United States had offered to lead and host a workshop to be held in the Autumn of 2008. A steering group meeting to advance the discussion of the agenda and the issues is to be held back-to-back with a steering group meeting on collaborative mechanisms, probably in April 2008. Delegates are asked to consider co-sponsorship of the knowledge markets workshop with the United States and provide additional voluntary contributions to meet workshop costs, if possible in advance of the steering group meeting.

ITEM 19: COLLABORATIVE MECHANISMS

DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)32/REV1

46. The Secretariat (Ms. C. Sampogna) said that a Steering Group comprising eight countries (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States and BIAC) had been formed. They had agreed a means to take forward WPB work on collaborative mechanisms. In short, a workshop around a number of case studies was suggested. Case studies might be drawn from diverse fields including health, agriculture, industrial and environmental biotechnology and might highlight different types of collaborative mechanisms. A broad range of participants might be involved.

47. However, so far the steering group had not identified any specific source for the voluntary contributions necessary to take a workshop forward.

48. In discussion, delegates expressed strong support for work on collaborative mechanisms going forward. It should be given a high priority within the Working Party and new resources clearly had to be found. In the meantime, the Steering Group should continue with the organisation of the workshop (though the workshop itself could not go forward without voluntary contributions).

49. The Chairman said that there was clear interest in moving the collaborative mechanisms work forward as quickly as possible but that the existing resource limitations need to be overcome to make real progress. Delegations need to consider how to overcome these limitations as a matter of priority.

Actions:

- WPB delegates to provide comments on the draft workshop agenda by **15 March 2008**.
- Delegations to consult in capitals on opportunities for support through provision of resources **prior to April** steering group meeting.

ITEM 20: BIOTECHNOLOGY STATISTICS

DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)9

50. The Secretariat (Ms. B. van Beuzekom and Ms. A. Colecchia) presented ongoing and planned work on biotechnology metrics. In discussion, delegates concluded that better co-operation needs to be nurtured between the NESTI *ad-hoc* group on biotechnology statistics and the WPB to ensure that the *ad-hoc* group's work continues to meet the policy needs of WPB.

51. The Chairman concluded that a WPB bureau member should attend the *ad-hoc* group meeting on biotechnology statistics in May 2008 to foster co-operation with the WPB.

ITEM 21: GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN BIOBANKS AND GENETIC RESEARCH DATABASES

DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)17/REV4

DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)10

52. The Secretariat (Ms. C. Sampogna) summarised progress on the draft *Guidelines for Human Biobanks and Genetic Research Databases* [DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)17/REV4]. National experts had met in

January 2008 where they concluded that the draft Guidelines were at the stage that they should be made available for outside comment and input, via a broad external consultation. In order for this to go forward WPB needed to agree that they should be put to CSTP for declassification.

53. Once the draft Guidelines are declassified they will be posted on the OECD website with a provision for interested parties to provide comments electronically. Concurrent with the posting of the text on the website, the Secretariat will also send the Guidelines to targeted stakeholders for comment. The secretariat will need advice on who such targeted stakeholders should be.

54. Finally, at the previous meeting of the WPB, delegates had requested that the Secretariat develop a short description of the relationship between the *Guidelines for Human Biobanks and Genetic Research Databases* and the *Best Practice Guidelines for Biological Resource Centres*. Ms. Sampogna presented this text [see Annex 1 of DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)10]. Comments on this note would be welcome.

55. The Chairman summarised discussion saying that the WPB recommended that the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy declassify the draft *Guidelines for Human Biobanks and Genetic Research Databases* for the purposes of public consultation. The Chairman suggested that WPB delegates brief their CSTP delegate(s) in advance of the CSTP meeting planned for 31 March – 1 April 2008.

Actions:

- Delegates are invited to submit to the Secretariat, by **15 March 2008**, names and co-ordinates of entities to be consulted from a broad selection of sectors. Names of specific individuals within each organisation would be welcome.
- Delegates were invited to submit comments on the text described in paragraph 54 by **28 February 2008**.

ITEM 22: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRES

DSTI/STP/BIO(2008)1

56. The Secretariat (Mr. K. Nakase) reported on the outcome of the WPB Workshop on Networking BRCs held in Paris on 13-14 December 2007. Delegates noted that the final report of the Workshop will be provided to WPB by the end of 2008.

57. The December workshop concluded, inter alia, that further work might usefully be carried out by the OECD on assessment and gap analysis as well as cost-benefit analysis of existing human-derived material BRCs. Delegates in principle supported such work, provided it is fully funded through a new voluntary contribution. An appropriate intermediate output result had been incorporated in the draft PWB for 2009-2010.

58. Mr. J. Wadzack (Germany) said that in the meantime his government was moving forward with plans to support a bottom-up approach from the research community to network BRCs (particularly in the microbial domain). This would likely build on the OECD guidelines as well as perhaps some of the key messages from the December workshop.

ITEMS 23: PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2009-2010

59. In preparation for the discussion on PWB priorities, the Chairman led a discussion on global challenges that biotechnology could help address. Delegates were of the view that these included: the environment, energy, food and feed, human health, translational medicine, ageing society, preventive medicine, biosecurity, knowledge management and knowledge translation, intellectual property, data management and privacy, and public perception. A short discussion was had on each.

60. The Chairman asked delegates to keep these global challenges in mind as they worked their way through the proposed topics to be included in the 2009-2010 PWB. He also noted that delegates had made clear that they would welcome a thematic discussion focused on a chosen global challenge at the onset of future WPB meetings.

61. In leading the Working Party through their discussions on priorities for the 2009-2010 work programme, the Chairman suggested, to approval, that potential topics be divided into A (high priority) and B (medium priority) lists. In brief, "A" list topics would be assigned the majority of Part 1 resources whereas "B" list projects would be contingent on the generation of new voluntary contributions. Delegates also added "place-holders" for WPB priorities related to global challenges that are yet to be agreed upon. No action would be taken on these items without further discussion and approval by the WPB. The Chairman asked delegates to provide feedback (and ranking of the five output results) by 29 February 2008. The A and B list items were included into five output areas representing the key areas of WPB work, it is these output areas that will be ranked by countries in the priority voting exercise (intermediate results within each output result were ranked during the list A/B exercise and agreed by the WPB). Delegates agreed that the Bureau should be asked to sign-off on the version of the final PWB submitted to CSTP.

ACTION

- Countries are to submit their priority ranking of the Output Results for 2009-2010 as well as any final comments on the PWB by **29 February 2008**. The Bureau will take any final decisions on the PWB to be sent to the CSTP by **10 March 2008**.

62. The Chairman noted the amount of voluntary contributions that are necessary to deliver the whole programme of work. In discussion it was suggested that attempts be made to develop a funding platform which would span different projects and would be used to finance a number of priority projects. The advantage of such a system is that it does not rely on "white knights" or countries who finance the large majority of any given project but allows funding to be raised for the highest priority work on the basis of smaller contributions from a broader base of countries. The Chairman noted the need to make meaningful contributions to the work of the OECD so as to expand the Part 1 financing base.

ACTION

- The Secretariat should begin an exercise on behalf of the WPB to seek to raise voluntary contributions in support of work in 2009-2010.

63. The Chair concluded that the PWB would be revised in light of discussions and sent to delegates so that they could consult in capitals on their country's priorities. Countries will have until 29 February 2008 to vote on the prioritisation of the five output results. The Bureau will take a decision by 10 March 2008 on the results of the prioritisation exercise. The PWB for the WPB will then be sent to CSTP for their decision and agreement.

ITEMS 24: PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2007-2008 DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)48

64. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) reminded delegates that the PWB 2007-2008 can be slightly adjusted in order to align it with any programming changes that have taken place in the course of its delivery. The following minor adaptations were agreed by WPB:

- i)* Output Result 4 – "Analytical reports on, and evaluation of, the contribution of industrial biotechnology to the bioeconomy": On the advice of the TFIB the time schedule of delivery (the order in which the different analytical reports should be produced) was slightly changed.

- ii)* Output Result 6 – “Establish a Global Biological Resource Centre Network (GBRCN)”: WPB decided at their last meeting to hold a workshop rather than build a global BRC network (essentially since needed voluntary contributions were not forthcoming). WPB agreed to suggest to CSTP that the output result be changed to “Policy report on a GBRCN”.
- iii)* Output Result 8 – formerly two options existed: “Policy recommendations on security of biological materials” and/or “Cost benefit analysis of policy recommendations on security of biological materials.” WPB agreed to take forward the former rather than the latter, subject to the provision of new VCs (which were unlikely to be forthcoming before 2009). The latter option should not be taken forward within the PWB for the moment.
- iv)* Output Result 9 – “Analytical and policy reports on innovation in functional foods”: Since this received no support and no voluntary contribution WPB decided not to take work forward.
- v)* Output Result 10 – “Analytical Reports and Best Practices for Management of Risk to Water Supplies”: Since the envisaged voluntary contributions had not been forthcoming, WPB decided to confine work under this output result to provision of an options paper on environmental biotechnology R&D (see paragraph 26).

**ITEM 25: REPORT ON WPB ACTIVITIES TO CSTP
AND SELF EVALUATION PROCESS**

DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)39

65. The Secretariat (Mr. Gillespie) said that WPB was in the process of undertaking a self-evaluation on the basis of the OECD Council’s in-depth review of the CSTP.

66. Good progress had been made on the majority of Council’s requirements (see DSTI/STP/BIO(2007)39) but the recommendation that had not yet been addressed concerns WPB’s relationship with the European Commission. The Chairman suggested, to approval, that the Secretariat should approach the new Director of Life Sciences of the European Commission to begin discussions once that individual had been appointed.

67. Delegates agreed that the report to CSTP should focus on the items discussed under agenda items 24 and 25.

**ITEM 26: REPORT FROM THE OECD’S INTERNAL CO-ORDINATION GROUP ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY (ICGB)**

68. The Secretariat (Mr. P. Kearns) summarised recent activities of the ICGB. He drew attention to two recent publications, firstly the policy report on Biofuels entitled “Biofuels for Transport: Policies and Possibilities” and secondly a Brochure on the OECD work on the risk assessment of modern biotechnology.

ITEM 27: DATES AND LOCATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

69. The 24th Session of the WPB will be held on 19-21 November 2008, at the OECD Headquarters in Paris. This is expected to be a full three day meeting. Dates for the Task Forces would be agreed separately.

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11 – 13 February 2008

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