

Preface

Bernardo Sorj
Mark Cantley
Karl Simpson
(eds.)

SciELO Books / SciELO Livros / SciELO Libros

SORJ, B., CANTLEY, M., and SIMPSON, K., eds. *Biotechnology in Europe and Latin America: prospects for co-operation* [online]. Rio de Janeiro: Centro Edelstein de Pesquisas Sociais, 2010. Preface. pp. III-IV. ISBN: 978-85-7582-036-6. Available from SciELO Books <<http://books.scielo.org>>.



All the contents of this chapter, except where otherwise noted, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported.

Todo o conteúdo deste capítulo, exceto quando houver ressalva, é publicado sob a licença Creative Commons Atribuição - Uso Não Comercial - Partilha nos Mesmos Termos 3.0 Não adaptada.

Todo el contenido de este capítulo, excepto donde se indique lo contrario, está bajo licencia de la licencia Creative Commons Reconocimiento-NoComercial-CompartirIgual 3.0 Unported.

PREFACE

The accession of Spain and Portugal to membership of the European Community in January 1985 not only brought new vitality to the European initiative, but served as a powerful reminder of the broader dimensions of the Spanish – and Portuguese-speaking worlds. A reinforcement of Europe's natural and historical internationalism of outlook was particularly relevant in the context of biotechnology; for the sophisticated multi-disciplinary scientific base, and the several broad application areas, force on biotechnology an internationalism both for access to scientific capability, and for access to worldwide markets.

Such was the rationale for SOBELA': a Seminar on Biotechnology in Europe and Latin America', which in April 1987 brought some 50 Latin American entrepreneurs, policy-makers and academic leaders to Europe and to Brussels. At the Commission's Borschette Conference Centre, they heard presentations from eleven of the Community Member States, each emphasising its strengths in biotechnology and its interest in promoting industrial collaboration with firms in Latin America.

The seminar was opened by speeches from Vice-President Karl-Heinz Narjes on behalf of the Commission, and by His Excellency Luis Ramiro Alfonsin of Argentina, senior Latin American diplomat in Brussels. In the closing session, Directors-General Paolo Fasella (Science, Research and Development, DG XII) and Jean Durieux (External Relations, DG I) welcomed Their Excellencies the ambassadors from Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay and Colombia.

The conference itself was preceded and followed by visits to the leading centers in the various Member States. The fruits of these exchanges were shown through more than a hundred proposals for industrial collaboration which resulted, many of them now converted into ongoing relationships. The Commission through its Directorate-General for External Relations is continuing to promote such collaboration, helping firms in each continent to find useful partners for trade, investment, technical collaboration or marketing.

The materials presented at the conference have been updated and edited, to give in this book an up-to-date picture of capabilities and common

interests. Although inevitably any book on biotechnology is obsolete by the time it appears, there is nothing obsolescent about the dynamism now being displayed in the development of the bioindustries in both continents. We hope that the presentations assembled in this volume will testify to this dynamic development, and stimulate its further promotion.

The Editors,
Bernardo Sorj
Mark Cantley
Karl Simpson