



EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research

20 Years of Thinking Forward Together

Maive Rute

EC co-chair of the EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research
Director, European Commission, DG Research



Co-Chairs 1990-2010

EC

Paolo Fasella (1990-1995)

Director General, DG XII

Bruno Hansen (1996-2003)

Director, Life Science Coordination
Directorate, DG Research

Christian Patermann (2004-2007)

Director, Biotechnologies, Agriculture and
Food Research Directorate

Tim Hall (2008-2009)

Acting Director, Biotechnologies,
Agriculture and Food Research Directorate

Maive Rute (2009-present)

Director, Biotechnologies, Agriculture and
Food Research Directorate

US

Mary E. Clutter (1990-2005)

Assistant Director, Biological Sciences
Directorate, National Science Foundation

Kathie L. Olsen (2005-2009)

Deputy Director, National Science
Foundation

Judith St. John (2009 – present)

Associate Administrator, Agricultural
Research Service, Department of
Agriculture



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◆ HIGHLIGHTS

Creation of new inter-disciplinary scientific communities

- ◆ Workshop in 1997 “Thinking Small on a Global Scale” – the field of **NANOBIOTECHNOLOGY** was born.
- ◆ Workshop in 2008 “Nanobiotechnology”
- ◆ European and US scientists are now working together on developing biosensors for environmental monitoring.





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Working together for solutions to environmental problems

◆ **Since 1995 the Working Group on environmental biotechnology has served as a forum for scientific discussion and sharing of knowledge.**

◆ **Hundreds of European and US early career scientists have been trained in environmental biotechnology and to work collaboratively across the Atlantic.**

◆ **2011- Short training course and workshop on “Microbial Communities and their interaction”**

Training the next generation of scientific leaders remains a priority for the next decade.



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Fighting infectious diseases

- ◆ Workshop in 1998 “Protection of Newborn and Infants from Infectious Diseases”
- ◆ Workshop in 2003 “Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in Man and Animals”
- ◆ Workshop in 2006 “Advances in Immunology and Vaccine Discovery”
- ◆ Cooperation on notifiable diseases such as classical swine fever, African swine fever and foot and mouth diseases

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Reducing dependence on petrochemicals and creating new markets for farmers

- ◆ Working group, workshops and joint project addressing biobased products and the potential for plants to become a source of industrial feedstock
- ◆ The bio-economy concept was born in 2005.



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*Promoting scientific and social values with the same
pace and effort*

- ◆ 2006 - Workshop on scientific and technical aspects of SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY, as well as the ethical, legal and social aspects
- ◆ 2010 - Workshop on standards in synthetic biology
- ◆ 2010 - Discussion on governance and the need for training



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Active dialogue on

- Obesity

- Women's leadership in biotechnology and its impact on innovation and on the quest to find solutions to global challenges

