



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 September 2003**

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IND 119  
AGRI 270  
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RELEX 328  
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AG 40**

**REPORT**

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From : Working Party on Competitiveness & Growth (Industry)  
To : Coreper/Council

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No. Cion prop. : 7473/03 RECH 37 ENV 163 CONSOM 24 SAN 46 DEVGEN 31 MI 56 IND 39  
AGRI 72 SOC 129 RELEX 104 EDUC 46 AG 9 + ADD 1

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Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on: "Life sciences and biotechnology - a strategy for Europe"

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1. On 10 March 2003, the Commission submitted to the Council a communication entitled: "Life sciences and biotechnology - a strategy for Europe - progress report and future orientations"<sup>1</sup>. This communication is the Commission's response to the invitation, contained in the conclusions and roadmap for a strategy on life sciences and biotechnology adopted by the Council on 26 November 2002 <sup>2</sup>, to submit yearly reports on the implementation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 7473/03 RECH 37 ENV 163 CONSOM 24 SAN 46 DEVGEN 31 MI 56 IND 39  
AGRI 72 SOC 129 RELEX 104 EDUC 46 AG 9 + ADD 1.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 5745/03 RECH 12 ENV 50 CONSOM 8 SAN 17 DEVGEN 10 MI 18 IND 10 AGRI 18  
SOC 32 RELEX 31 EDUC 23 AG 5 and O.J. N° C 39 of 18.2.2003.

roadmap and strategy.

2. On 18 July and 4 September 2003, the Working Party on Competitiveness & Growth (Industry) reached agreement on a set of draft Council conclusions on the Commission's progress report. These are set out in Annex.

- The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm agreement on the attached draft conclusions with a view to their adoption at the Competitiveness Council on 22 September 2003.

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**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON  
"LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY – A STRATEGY FOR EUROPE"**

**THE COUNCIL:**

1. **RECALLING** that the European biotechnology strategy aims at facilitating the comprehensive and responsible development of biotechnology applications as an important step towards a competitive knowledge-based economy;
2. **RECOGNISING** the important role that biotechnology, as an enabling technology, plays in many different fields, and thus its significance for the overall competitiveness of European industry;
3. **WELCOMES** the Commission's first progress report<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of the European biotechnology strategy and agrees with the broad lines of its analysis; in this context **RECALLS** the importance of an integrated approach addressing all the complex and multifaceted societal and economic issues involved;
4. **STRESSES** the need for significant efforts to be made to move from the conceptual and planning stage to the implementation of the biotechnology strategy and of the roadmap contained in the Council Conclusions of 26 November 2002<sup>2</sup> in order to contribute effectively to the achievement of the EU competitiveness objectives set by the Lisbon European Council;

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 7473/03 RECH 37, ENV 163, CONSOM 24, SAN 46, DEVGEN 31, MI 56, IND 39, AGRI 72, SOC 129, RELEX 104, EDUC 46, AG 9, "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, to the Council and to the European Economic and Social Committee: Life Sciences and Biotechnology – A strategy for Europe – Progress report and Future Orientations" - COM (2003) 96 final of 05.03.2003.

<sup>2</sup> See OJ C 39 of 18.02.2003, p. 9.

5. **UNDERLINES** the need to encourage overall coherence in policy making and to envisage, at EU level, the development of appropriate means for closer cooperation among Member States together with the Commission, in implementing the biotechnology strategy;
  6. **ENCOURAGES** Member States and the Commission to step up their co-operation and to regularly exchange information on progress made in order to advance in the priority areas for future action already identified and, in particular, to improve conditions for access to finance for biotechnology companies and to complete and implement the general regulatory framework;
  7. **AWAITS** with interest the results of the Conference on life sciences and biotechnology to be held in Rome on 21-22 November, as a source of possible further input in the process of implementing the Action Plan and the Road-map;
  8. **INVITES** the Commission to assess the progress achieved in this area in its next report.
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