

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
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Minister assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues
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Associate Membership of European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Dear Minister Bishop,

Following your letter dated 11 May 2007 in which Australia applied to become an associate member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the EMBL Council, at its 34th Ordinary Session on 4 July 2007 adopted a resolution (Enclosure 1), which it is my distinct pleasure to communicate to you officially, welcoming Australia as an associate member state, indicatively from 1 January 2008 until 31 December 2014.

As you are aware Council made some minor changes to the Proposed Principles Regarding Australian Associate Membership of EMBL and these can be seen at Enclosure 2. Further discussions will of course be required to develop a formal Instrument of Cooperation between the Government of Australia and EMBL to initiate and govern the associate membership, and we will endeavour to finalise this Instrument with your representatives to enable the associate membership to become operational from 1 January 2008.

From the date the associate membership becomes effective Australia should be represented by up to two delegates in the EMBL Council, who will attend the Council and Finance Committee meetings as observers. I would appreciate receiving credentials for the Australian delegates in due time. These credentials are required in order that the delegates may attend the meetings. I also attach for your information a copy of the Rules of Procedure of the EMBL Council (Enclosure 3).

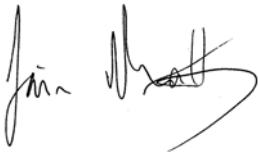
European Molecular
Biology Laboratory

Laboratoire Européen
de Biologie Moléculaire

Europäisches Laboratorium
für Molekularbiologie

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally invite an Australian delegation to attend the meeting of EMBL's Council on 20 – 21 November 2007 to formally introduce Australia's plans and policies for the life sciences and interaction with EMBL.

Yours sincerely,



Iain W. Mattaj

Enclosures:

1. EMBL Council Resolution adopted on 4 July 2007
2. Proposed Principles Regarding Australian Associate Membership of EMBL modified 4 July 2007
3. Rules of Procedure of the EMBL Council