



**The Hon Julie Bishop MP**  
Minister for Education, Science and Training  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues

11 MAY 2007

Professor Charalambos Savakis  
Chair, EMBL Council  
C/O EMBL Directorate Office  
Meyerhofstrasse 1  
69117 Heidelberg  
Germany

Dear Professor Savakis

**Associate Membership of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory**

On behalf of the Government of Australia, I am writing to seek consideration by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Council, at its 2-5 July 2007 meeting, of a request from the Australian Government to become an Associate Member of EMBL.

The Government of Australia is aware that the proposed Associate Membership requires EMBL Council approval pursuant to Article IV(2) of the Agreement Establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory 1974. The Government of Australia has been informed of the financial contributions that will be involved.

I further propose that the principles set out in Appendix 1 to this letter apply to the proposed Associate Membership. Accordingly, Australia seeks the mutual consent of the EMBL Council to the principles set in the Appendix 1 as the basis of the terms of Australia's Associate Membership. I note that these principles are in accordance with the EMBL Council Paper on *Involvement of Non-Member States in EMBL* (EMBL/Fin.Com./2003/17E).

In the event that this request is agreed and the principles consented to, I propose that the Australian Government would commence discussions with the EMBL Director-General to develop a formal Instrument of Cooperation between the Government of Australia and EMBL to initiate and govern the Associate Membership.

I would expect that, if formal cooperation is established between EMBL and Australia in 2007, the Associate Membership would become operational from 1 January 2008 until 31 December 2015 and that Australia will attend EMBL Council meetings as an observer for the duration of the Associate Membership.

2.

An Australian delegation will be available to attend the Council's November 2007 meeting, at the Council's request, to formally introduce Australia's plans and policies for the life sciences and interaction with EMBL.

Thank you for your consideration of Australia's request.

Yours sincerely



JULIE BISHOP

Encl. Proposed principles regarding Australian Associate Membership of EMBL