

## Press Release

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16. Juli 2008

## **The Third Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) Opens in Barcelona**

Stuttgart, 16 July 2008 – “Because science in Europe has long been international, but is still struggling to become European, the Euroscience Open Forum was called to life four years ago.” With these words, Ingrid Wüning Tschol, director of the Science and Research Program at the Robert Bosch Stiftung, describes the idea behind ESOF, a “showcase for research.” Tschol, who holds a doctorate in biology and belongs to ERAB, the independent Advisory Board to EU-Commissioner Potocnik, belongs to the initiators of the congress, which was held for the first time in 2004 in Stockholm and for the second time two years later, in Munich. At the third forum, which will open in Barcelona on July 18 and run through July 22, Ingrid Wüning Tschol will co-chair the steering committee alongside Enric Banda.

“Science lives from the exchange of ideas and from the societal recognition that follows from encounters between researchers, funders and the media,” as Ingrid Wüning Tschol emphasized. “Europe to become a strong, highly visible and innovative partner on the global map of science, this is the vision!” Within a short time ESOF has developed into the most important gathering for research scientists, research policy makers and media representatives. Independent of governments and parties, this forum plays a central role in the creation of a truly European scientific community. Alongside presentations of excellence in European research, ESOF provides forums for a free-ranging discussion of the most controversial issues in science and research policy.

More than 3500 participants are expected at ESOF 2008, where much of the focus will be on the life sciences and current debates in research policy. The speakers will include four Nobel Prize winners and high-ranking officials in research policy like Portugal’s Minister of Science Mariano Gago, former chief scientific adviser to the British government Sir David King, President Kafatos and Secretary General Winnacker of the European Research Council.

Robert Bosch Stiftung has played a key role in the development and financing of ESOF. The foundation has invested far upwards of one million euros in the establishment of this conference for European science.