

Procedure for joining the European Molecular Biology Conference:

- (1) A formal request must be sent from the appropriate Minister in the Government of the applying country.
- (2) In addition, the Conference requires from the Government applying for membership a written declaration that the following four criteria are fulfilled:
 - i. Any government making an application for membership of the EMBC should be the government of an internationally recognised sovereign state.
 - ii. The government, or the non-governmental organisation making the application, must be prepared to pay, in convertible currency, the assessed budgetary contribution.
 - iii. There should be freedom of travel to and from the country making the application both for its own citizens, and for citizens of all of the member states of the Conference.
 - iv. Individual scientists in the country making the application should have the right to apply as individuals for EMBO fellowships and for participation in courses and workshops without having to apply *via* a national body, such as an academy of science or a ministry of the government.
- (3) Having received the application including formal acceptance of these special criteria, the EMBC Strategic Working Party (composed of EMBC officers and some of the delegates of the member states) will consider the application from a scientific and financial perspective.
- (4) Once the Strategic Working Party has come to a conclusion, it will recommend to the EMBC whether or not the new member state should be accepted.
- (5) When the Conference has voted on acceptance of membership (unanimity is required), it is open to the applying country to sign formally the accession to the Agreement, which has been lodged in Bern. Ratification by the new member state must be in place no later than 18 months after its acceptance by the EMBC as a new member state.