



COST is supported by the EU  
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## UBIOCHEM-I

### UTILISATION OF BIOMASS FOR FUELS AND CHEMICALS:

#### THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

#### First Workshop of COST Action CM0903

#### “Utilisation of Biomass for Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals (UBIOCHEM)”

*University of Cordoba, Spain (13-15<sup>th</sup> May, 2010)*

#### FIRST CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear colleague,

You and your research team are cordially invited to participate in UBIOCHEM-I, the first Workshop of COST Action CM0903 (UBIOCHEM). The title of this Workshop is “*Utilisation of biomass for fuels and chemicals: the road to sustainability*”.

The scientific programme (see attachment) will consist of several plenary lectures together with some oral and poster presentations to be held on next May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Confirmed plenary speakers include some of the most relevant scientists in catalysis such as Prof. Avelino Corma (ITQ Valencia, Spain), Prof. Roger A. Sheldon (TU Delft, Netherlands, Chair of the Action), Prof. Gabriele Centi (University of Messina, Italy), Prof. Pierre Gallezot (IRCE Lyon, France) and Prof. Istvan T. Horvath (City University of Hong Kong) among others.

The specific meeting of the COST Action (restricted to COST members) will be held in parallel with Working Group sessions (May 14<sup>th</sup>), Joint and Management Committee meetings (May 15<sup>th</sup>).

#### Scientific Scope

This COST Action is aimed at coordinating scientific innovations within Europe in order to improve existing methods or develop new ones for utilisation of biomass to produce biofuels, platform and specialty chemicals in accordance with the safety and environmental requirements.

The aim of the workshop is to cover recent developments in the area of biomass utilisation for fuels and chemicals and will include 4 main topic areas:

- **Topic 1:** *Primary conversion of lignocellulosic feedstocks:* traditional thermal (pyrolysis or gasification to afford syn gas) or hydrolytic (acid/base or enzymatic) treatments and its improvement through the use of microwaves, ultrasounds and alternative reaction media such as supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> and ionic liquids in order to make them both more effective and environmentally friendlier.
- **Topic 2:** *Conversion of Biomass into energy:* Exploration on the different alternatives to produce energy from biomass, e.g. from agricultural and chemical pulping originating materials, comparing them in terms of costs, safety and environmental impact.
- **Topic 3:** *Biomass to materials.* Study of the production of biodegradable films, adhesives and plastics from biomass. It includes both new materials produced via platform chemicals and new materials produced directly from biopolymers such as cellulose, chitin, etc

- **Topic 4:** *Platform chemicals.* valorisation of some platform chemicals that can be produced by biological or abiological processes from lignocellulose-derived sugars and used as building blocks for the production of new product families.

#### Call for papers

All authors wishing to present a contribution (one per registered person) are requested to submit by e-mail to the Conference Secretariat a one-page abstract including figures and/or tables in an MS Word format according to the Template provided. Selection of oral and poster presentations will be based on the evaluation of abstracts by reviewers (about 10 oral presentations + 100 posters). Please, indicate the topic area and oral or poster preference when submitting the abstract.

#### Registration

The fee will be 250 Euro for non-COST Action members and will cover coffee breaks, lunches (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May), the conference dinner (13<sup>th</sup> May) and a copy of the book of abstracts. Some free social events are currently been prepared. Reduced fee (200 euro) will be considered for students who will have to send a certificate from his/her supervisor to the secretariat.

These fees are applicable for *early-bird registration* which should be made by February 26<sup>th</sup>. As stated below, this date is the deadline for hotel reservation. After that date availability of hotel rooms is not guaranteed and applicable fee will be 250 and 350 for students and others, respectively.

Registration will be strictly limited to the first 120 who apply. This is exactly the number of rooms which has been booked. Therefore, in order to register, make sure you have accommodation first (see contact details in accommodation section) and then contact the conference secretariat for registration (bank transfer) details.

**NOTE: the registration fee MUST be paid before any abstract will be considered for an oral and/or poster presentation.**

#### Proceedings

The authors of all accepted contributions (either oral or panel communications) will be invited to submit a manuscript for publication in a special issue of *Catalysis Today*. Acceptance of contributions will be based on the standard peer review process of the journal and they should be submitted by the start of the workshop at the latest (see Relevant Deadlines section).

#### The Venue

The Workshop will be held at the Rectorate of the University of Cordoba (Avenida Medina Azahara 5, 14071-CORDOBA) which has a whole range of facilities. Coffee breaks and lunches will be served at the Rectorate restaurant.

#### Cordoba in May

In 1994 UNESCO declared the historic centre to be a World Heritage site and this is why Cordoba is one of Spain's most visited tourist destinations. The most relevant monument is the Mosque (dating back to the 8th Century) though



there are many monuments to visit.

May is a month of festivities in Cordoba. Flower Crosses, Festival of Patios (Courtyards) and the Fair. The Workshop will be held during the Patio Festival. The Patio Festival is a unique opportunity to step into private homes, whose owners-after caring for hundreds of plants and flowers all year long-open their patios to the public in early May. People from the city and abroad enjoy their hospitality and marvel at the variety of the decorations and plants, just when the geraniums, roses, carnations and other flowers are in full bloom.



Cordoba's streets and plazas are a delight to explore, but the city's private houses-many hundreds of years old-shelter beautiful little corners which are waiting to be discovered.

Cordoba's patios capture the essence of Andalusia in a tiny space, isolated from the hustle and bustle of modern life. The aroma of lemon blossoms, the exuberant vegetation, and the cool trickle of a fountain make them tiny oasis. The festival is the city's most emblematic event of the year.

## Accommodation

May is high season in Cordoba because of all the festivals we have. However, we have negotiated favourable room prices and reserved rooms for the conference participants in several hotels in Cordoba. All of them are in the City Center and within walking distance to the venue (University Rectorate). Note that the reservations will be made on "first come, first served" basis. As stated below, hotel quotas are valid until February 26th 2010. After that we cannot guarantee the availability of the hotel rooms, but will assist you in finding accommodation. Please, also note that two of the hotels are only available until Friday (end of the Workshop for non-COST members) whereas it is possible to stay during Friday night as well in the other two.

HOTEL NAME	PRICE		Available nights	Contact person	Identifier
	Double room/individual use	Double room (2 persons)			
Tryp Los Gallos ***	80.97 euros (VAT included)	95.81 euros (VAT included)	12, 13 and 14 May	José Moraño <a href="mailto:jose.morano@solmelia.com">jose.morano@solmelia.com</a>	Congress Biomass
AC Córdoba****	90 euros+VAT	100 euros+VAT	12, 13, 14 and 15 May	Gema Palmero <a href="mailto:accordoba@ac-hotels.com">accordoba@ac-hotels.com</a>	H99J2096-M82
Selu ***	80 euros +VAT	100 euros +VAT	12, 13, 14 and 15 May	Félix Serrano <a href="mailto:comercial@hotelselu.com">comercial@hotelselu.com</a>	Congress on Biomass
Cordoba Center ****	89 euros +VAT	104 euros +VAT	12, 13, 14 May	M <sup>a</sup> Eugenia de la Paz <a href="mailto:mepaz@hotelescenter.com">mepaz@hotelescenter.com</a>	Congress on Biomass

### NOTES

VAT is currently (2009) 7%

Prices include breakfast in all cases.

Please, contact the hotel directly indicating the identifier. Send copy of all your e-mails to [UBIOCHEM@uco.es](mailto:UBIOCHEM@uco.es)

Hotel rooms are guaranteed only until February 26<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Once you contact the hotel they will tell you about the booking conditions (e.g. they can ask for a credit card number to block the room or the bank transfer of one night price).

## How to reach Cordoba

Cordoba is well connected to the rest of the country. The closest airports are those at Sevilla or Malaga. The AVE (Spain's high speed rail network) takes 40 minutes to get to Sevilla, 1 hour to Malaga and just 1 hour and 40 minutes to Madrid.

## Relevant deadlines

February 26th, 2010	Early bird registration and abstract deadline (and hotel rooms guaranteed)
March 30th, 2010	Notification of reviewers' decision (oral or panel presentation)
May 13th, 2010	Manuscripts sent to the Secretariat and beginning of the Workshop

## Conference Secretariat

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## Local Organizing Committee

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Prof. Victoriano Borau  
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## International Scientific Committee

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Prof. Avelino Corma (Spain)  
Prof. Gabriele Centi (Italy)  
Prof. Pierre Gallezot (France)  
Prof. Istvan T. Horvath (Hong Kong)  
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