



## ITALIAN SOCIETY OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

To the President of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)  
Prof. Israel Pecht

To all members of the Italian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SIB)

To the Italian Federation of Life Sciences (FISV)

To the press

Dear President Prof. Israel Pecht, Dear Colleagues, Dear Members of the Italian Biochemical Society,

as it is known, the FEBS Annual Congress 2016 is organised by the Federation of all the European Biochemical Societies, and this year is scheduled to be held at Ephesus Convention Center Bayraklıdede in Aydin, Turkey, from 3rd to 8th September, 2016, where it is expected to be attended by researchers from all over the world.

In consideration of the complex political situation in Turkey subsequent to the failed military coup that apparently is also heavily affecting freedom within Turkish Universities, the Italian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SIB) urges the government of Turkey to ensure that academics, and citizens in general, can voice and discuss ideas and opinions, even if they are controversial, without risk of censorship or repercussions. SIB, as already expressed by the European Universities Association, stands up for university values and calls on all governments, universities and scholars, as well as all higher education stakeholders, to remain committed to the internationally recognised principles of academic freedom and to work towards constructive dialogue.

As an official position, standing the present situation, SIB considers that the next FEBS Congress in Aydin should be either suspended or moved to a different country until freedom of opinion within Turkish universities, and within the whole country, be guaranteed again. SIB invites all Italian biochemists to behave accordingly in relation to their attendance to the FEBS Annual Congress 2016 in Aydin, Turkey.

On behalf of the Italian Society of Biochemistry

The President

Prof. Bruno Giardina