



PRESS RELEASE *(for immediate release)*

Amsterdam, December 1st, 2011

European Association for Biometrics founded

Today the European Association for Biometrics has been established. During the inaugural meeting on 17th November 2011 the founding members, representing 14 institutions from 10 different European countries, have chosen the founding members of the Management Board. The board members are all seasoned and well respected individuals from the European biometrics and identity community:

Chairman:	Alexander Nouak (Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IGD, Germany)
Deputy Chairman:	Michiel Kraak (UNHCR, Swiss)
Secretary General:	Max Snijder (European Biometrics Group, The Netherlands), EAB spokesman
Treasurer:	John Forrester (Ancitel, Italy)
Board Member:	Christoph Busch (Gjøvik University College, Norway)
Board Member:	Farzin Deravi (University of Kent, United Kingdom)
Board Member:	Peter Hanel (Ministry of Interior, Austria)

The EAB, having its legal base in The Netherlands, is a non-profit organization seeking to advance the proper and beneficial use of biometrics in Europe and abroad, taking into account the interests of European citizens, industries, academia and operators, including governments. Alexander Nouak, chairman of the EBA says:

“This association is a consequential step from all the joint efforts of Europe’s key stakeholders in biometrics during the last 10 years in creating a broad and sustainable network in the area of biometrics and helps us to strengthen the European biometrics community. Unlike existing or previous initiatives the EAB is a European multi stakeholder platform run by its members to the benefit of all.”

The EAB has as its primary areas of interest in the following areas:

- Communication and community building
- Training and education
- Research and programme development

The EAB is a direct spin off from the BEST Network, a European Commission funded thematic network on biometrics (DG INFSO, FP7 ICT-PSP, contract nr. 238955, www.best-nw.eu).

EAB Vision

The need for **understanding and exploiting** the current and emerging technologies and services for the automated recognition of human identity is of increasing importance to the economic and social welfare and deserves a concerted, multidisciplinary and sustained effort. **The European context**, with its unique diversity, interdependence, heritage and values creates special requirements and opportunities for the development of such biometric technologies and services to maximise the benefit for the citizens and to protect society from any possible adverse side effects. The European Association for Biometrics **envisions** and strives for a future where biometric and allied technologies are used **in the service of Europe and for the benefit of all**.

Initiated by its members the EAB has installed the following committees:

- Committee on Training and education (chair: Farzin Deravi)
- Committee on Testing and evaluation (chair: Michael Peirce/Raul Sanchez-Reillo)
- Committee Ethics, privacy, socio-technical aspects (chair: Emilio Mordini)
- European Biometrics Research Award Committee (chair: Patrizio Campisi)

The work programmes of these committees are currently being designed and will be announced at the European Biometrics Symposium (Brussels, February 17th 2012), the public inauguration of the EAB.

For more information about the EAB and membership conditions please contact info@best-nw.eu or call Max Snijder: +31624603809.

European Association for Biometrics

Human Identity in Europe

