

**Message to participants at the [EMBL Council Winter Meeting on 28.11.2023](#) by [EMBL Council Chair, Prof. Dr. Peter B. Becker](#).**

Before we start the meeting, let us be aware that our discussions today are inevitably overshadowed by the ongoing violent conflict in the Middle East.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the brutal attack by Hamas on Israel, one of our founding member states and a cherished scientific partner.

We are saddened by the continuing suffering in the region caused by terror and violence.

EMBL was founded as an international laboratory to uphold and promote science as one of humanity's greatest collective endeavours, transcending nations, ethnicities and faiths. These are enduring values and we stand firmly behind them.

As a scientific community, we extend our deepest sympathy to all those scientists and scholars who are impacted by this conflict. EMBL is here for them.