Euro Skin Bank was established in 1976 as a subsidiary of the Dutch Burns Foundation. Through their support the skin bank was able to develop their activities, resulting in international distribution of allograft skin since 1992. The skin bank has grown substantially from 1992 and is the largest skin bank in Europe. Euro Skin Bank is currently procuring approximately 350 donors per year and distributes over 1,600,000 cm$^2$ of allograft skin per year throughout the world.

International collaboration appeared to be of great importance: the Volendam burn disaster on New Years Eve in 2000. Over 100 people were seriously burned, mostly in combination with severe inhalation trauma. Eventually 14 people died.

Disasters or attacks by terrorists always come as a surprise. Euro Skin Bank was prepared for disasters and always had an extra amount of skin available in case of emergency. However, in The Netherlands a serious burn disaster was calculated as an event in which a maximum of fifteen victims would be involved. The great need for allograft skin in the current disaster was obvious and Euro Skin Bank was not sure to fulfill this demand. Euro Skin Bank has been internationally active quite some time, e.g. to assist other countries in setting up their own skin bank, sometimes resulting in great collaboration agreements as with the Tissue Bank in Brno, Czech Republic. As allograft skin was in great need, the importance of these international contacts appeared to be crucial. From many countries assistance was asked and help was offered when needed. Thanks to a variety of skin banks in Belgium, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, and USA all patients could be treated with sufficient allograft skin. Glenn Greenleaf, active for many year in skin banking and international affairs, was of great value acting as intermediary for sending cryopreserved skin from the USA to The Netherlands.

This paper concerns the importance of international collaboration between tissue banks in case of disasters or terrorist attacks.