



PRESS RELEASE

CIBUS TECH OPENS TODAY MINISTER BELLANOVA: “CIBUS TEC GUIDES ITALY IN THE WORLD OF FOOD TECHNOLOGIES”

Auricchio, Fiere di Parma CHAIRMAN “Cibus Tec always ready to grasp the opportunities the world offers”

De Castro, PD member of the European Parliament: “Giving impetus to rules for better regulation of the use of new technologies in the agri-food sector”

(Parma, 22 October) “In its 80 years of history, Cibus Tec has contributed and is continuing to contribute both to the development of the local area and to local and national economic growth, in a sector in which Italy is a leader and a point of reference for the establishment of quality standards and for the development of technology applied to the food process. Every edition of this event has met the innovation needs of the food industry by identifying the “hottest” topics in terms of processing, packaging and distribution. We are here again this year to address new global challenges and discuss the great opportunities that the world offers us.” Gian Domenico Auricchio, Chairman of Fiere di Parma, with these words opened this morning the 2019 edition of Cibus Tec, at Fiere di Parma, that will run until October 25.

Although unable to attend, the Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry and Tourism Policy, **Teresa Bellanova**, sent her message: *“At the June presentation of Cibus Tec it was pointed out that this 52nd edition is the outcome of an internationalization process that confirms Italy’s leading role in food technologies. At the worst times of the crisis of recent years, Italy continued to make its mark even in faraway countries. This is a hallmark of the strength and far-sightedness of those who do not give up and continue to invest in research, innovation, technologies, the search for new markets and good globalization. It involves fair competition that chooses to operate in the context of the quality, excellence, research, solutions and services that it offers. This is why I believe that the focus on supporting Italian companies’ exports to Africa and India, where waste along the food chain is close to 40%, is particularly far-sighted and important. With an apt expression - continued the **Minister** - you have spoken of innovations that wink at the future. A future where we must face the ongoing climate environmental crisis and where technology and ecology must work side by side to produce sustainable products, including through precision agriculture, and to offer consumers nutritious products that meet high safety standards. These are our watchwords and the priorities of my government programme.”*

At the opening session, organized by World Food Research and Innovation Forum, **Paolo De Castro**, S&D coordinator in the European Parliament Agricultural Commission, addressed a very topical issue: *“With the start of the new legislature, and waiting for the final composition of the Commission, we reiterate our commitment, and my personal commitment, to give fresh impetus to rules for better regulation of the use of new technologies in the agri-food sector. We have already discussed this issue with Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner-designate for Agriculture, from whom we expect an important contribution in this direction, within the framework of the common agricultural policy.”*

Paolo De Castro, PD member of the European Parliament, focussed on the Common Agricultural Policy: *"With the incoming Commission, the CAP must restore decision-making responsibilities to Europe, avoiding the risks of renationalization of sector policies, which would not benefit anyone. The New Green Deal envisaged by the new President of the Executive, Ursula von der Leyen, will spur the promotion of technologies in support of European, and in particular Italian, agri-food products of excellence, which are the jewel in the crown of our exports. We will, however, need to simplify our procedures to achieve this, speeding up the authorization processes because of the rate of technological change involved in these products. Regarding new genetic engineering technologies, for example, many of our cutting-edge researchers and scientists are just waiting for the go ahead from the European Union to make a crucial contribution to the widespread adoption of a more sustainable agriculture. The deep connection between the EU Parliament and local areas, such as the Food Valley and the Parma area hosting Cibus Tec, will be further strengthened."*

The numbers of the 2019 edition testify to the exhibition's influence in the sector. **Thomas Rosolia**, KPE chairman, introduced them: *"An outstanding edition. We have worked together to make Cibus Tec grow. Thanks to our team work we have achieved impressive numbers: a 30% increase in exhibitors and a 25% increase in exhibition area, in addition to 3000 international operators from 70 different countries, 1200 companies (+30% compared to the previous edition) and 400 brands from 25 countries. These are significant figures - continued **Rosolia** - as they show how international Cibus Tec has become. The countries with the highest attendance were Italy, obviously, followed by Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, France, China, the United States, and Turkey. We are expecting about 40,000 visitors, 25% of whom from over 100 foreign countries. All this in the Italian system, which today has a leading position in the food technologies sector, with 32% of EU28 production. My thanks - he concluded - also goes to ICE for organizing the "India Educational & Business Program." This is an integrated project for developing business initiatives in India, participating in a bilateral program of B2B meetings, with Parma as a reference point."*

Next **Roberto Luongo**, General Manager of ICE Italian Trade Agency, explains the features of ICE activities within the current economic context: *"The key word is still globalization. 32% of Italy's wealth comes from exports. The closing of markets, customs duties: these are very dangerous situations. The topic of globalization is important within the food exhibition because, as the data shows, Italy is the second largest exporting country in the world after Germany in this sector. Our country's wealth lies in the ability to look ahead, with a firm grasp of the crucial aspects of the supply chain. We need to do even more. Thanks to ICE, 150 operators from 40 different countries are attending Cibus Tec. Building on the regional specialities of our country we need to enter the global market with an ever greater level of innovation."*

Innovation goes hand in hand with training. One cannot be separated from the other. Therefore academic research is of essential importance, as clearly stated by **Fabrizio Storti**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Parma: *"Food is a fundamental research and educational objective at our University. We like to think of Cibus Tec 2019 as a starting point of what will be an in-depth examination of the main challenges of the agri-food sector, such as the "World Food Research & Innovation Forum" in 2020."*

With an eye to the future, giving a central role to the Emilia-Romagna region. **Patrizio Bianchi**, Emilia-Romagna Regional councillor for European policies on development, schools, vocational training, universities, research and employment, described thus current work in the region: *"Today, in Italy, the old "Milan-Turin-Genoa" industrial triangle has been replaced by the new "Milan-Venice-Bologna" industrial triangle. Within this context, the Emilia-Romagna region has enriched the area with a network of Technology Centres and advanced training schools. It has also enhanced the role of its large research infrastructures."*

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