



Press Release

CIBUS 2022 OPENED TODAY WITH BOTH OPTIMISM AND WORRY

Speeches by the Minister Patuanelli, the Undersecretary Di Stefano, the President of Federalimentare, Vacondio, and by Carlo Bonomi, President of Confindustria – The conferences held today.

(Parma, 3 May 2022) – The 21st edition of Cibus, the international exhibition of the agri-food sector organized by Fiere di Parma and Federalimentare, opened today. The event was launched by **Stefano Patuanelli, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies and by Manlio Di Stefano, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, and was also attended by **Carlo Ferro, President of the Italian Trade Agency, Stefano Bonaccini, President of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority**, and other representatives of the economic and political world.

“We open Cibus with a fair amount of optimism about 2022 – said Patuanelli - We are excited to be back in person to show the Italian agri-food sector to the world, after exports last year reached a record high of 52 billion euros. I would like to add that the first few months of this year are not lagging behind. Of course there are problems, due partly to the conflict in Ukraine and the increase in costs, particularly of energy. The government is doing everything needed on the domestic side to support all production sectors and it is important for the EU to maintain the determination to be united and act together which characterized the way in which we faced the pandemic.”

According to Di Stefano, *“Cibus is the main trade fair dedicated to the agri-food sector and as such it offers a key opportunity to relaunch the sector's exports in these particularly complex economic times, when we are feeling the effects of the war, of the pandemic, of the upheaval in the logistics chains and now also of problems with the supply of raw materials.”*

“The food industry has shown resilience during the pandemic: it never stopped producing,





working and giving work, it forged a new awareness of the importance of the sector” - pointed out Antonio Cellie, Managing Director of Fiere di Parma during the conference - “and it revealed once and for all an inclusive industry with deep ties to its local area, made up of entrepreneurs who focus on quality and not on quantity and are personally, running businesses linked to their own identity and their own names.”

In a speech at the **Federalimentare assembly**, **President Ivano Vacondio** said: “It may seem strange to be here at Cibus celebrating the Made in Italy food&beverage sector, considering the challenging international context and the troubling consequences for Italy. But I believe that this event is extremely important not despite the situation we are experiencing but precisely because of what is currently happening. Cibus gives us the opportunity to reflect on key issues: first the pandemic and now the war have forced us to confront the vulnerability of our food system. It will therefore be important to start thinking about a new model of food diplomacy to be pursued with a dual objective: feeding the planet and providing social stability to nations.”

Carlo Bonomi, President of Confindustria, also spoke at the Federalimentare assembly, where he announced a project in support of the Ukrainian people, namely two canteens for refugees, an initiative set up by Fondazione Fiera Milano, Fiere di Parma and Federalimentare.

Various conferences and events were held during the first day of Cibus. The Beer of the Year competition, organized by Unionbirrai (the association of small craft breweries), awarded first prize to the Lazio brewery RITUAL LAB, while Lombardy placed first as the region with the most awarded breweries.

Reducing food waste: this is the challenge of the next few years that involves consumers as well as food industries, the food service sector and Large Retail. While food waste by Italian families saw a reduction in 2020 due to the Covid emergency, in 2021 it rose again,





and experts expect this trend to continue in 2022. This was the topic of the conference “The only rich dish is the one that does not waste - *New life for leftover food waste and the fight against waste*,” organized by Economy Group. The conference was attended, among others, by the President of Federdistribuzione, Ettore Frausin, and the President of Banco Alimentare, Giovanni Bruno.

