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SPEAKER

Luigi Nicolais

Elected regional head of Universities and scientific research, Region of Campania

(Italy)

Opening session, 30 september

I would like to welcome all of you to Naples on behalf of Mr. Bassolino, the President of the Region of Campania.

I think this very important meeting is really very timely not just for other countries but also Italy where the whole system of public institutions is undergoing profound structural modification and in the big change, discussed just a few minutes ago by Mr. Casavola, in which the welfare network and the welfare society becomes a key point for the development of nations. We strongly feel that we should be aware of the need to change the rules and to try and somehow improve all the situations as they stand now.

The Region of Campania is an “objective one” region, as they are called, one of the developing regions of Europe and we have this last chance of becoming a region like all the other regions of Europe in the sense that we are trying to develop our infrastructures so that we can compete on the same level as other regions. There are certainly many problems that still exist here in the region and most of them are related to unemployment and to infrastructure in general, but I think the main problems are those of unemployment and of the environment as Mr. Casavola also mentioned. I must say that we are working hard in this direction. We are working hard because we feel that it is crucial to develop the region in all areas such as in education, research or infrastructures, to develop networks and clusters and to try to work together in developing new ideas and in creating something that could really make a breakthrough in the development of this region. I have read your programme and I am sure you will discuss many of these issues and it is my belief that objective one regions should work together to achieve development and to become competitive in all Europe.

Finally I wish to thank you for choosing Naples as the location for this important meeting and while I am certain that your congress will be of great interest I also hope that you will enjoy your stay in our city and the surrounding environment. Thank you very much for coming here.