

International Foundry Forum 2010 in Barcelona, 10-11 September 2010
Andrzej Ryba, President of CAEF
Welcome

Ladies and Gentlemen

As President of the European Foundry Association CAEF and one of the co-organisers of this sixth International Foundry Forum I am pleased to welcome you today. Your continued interest in this event shows that we are still heading into the right direction, and that this conference is a truly outstanding event.

The last International Foundry Forum has been opened by Mr. Frigerio with reference to the term "Globalisation 2.0". Today, with the experience of the deepest recession since the 1920th, again, we have to open a new chapter. Asia is leading the world economy. Brazil got over the crisis without important damages. And the triade formed by USA, Japan and Europe had and still has to cope with the consequences of the crisis.

This year's meeting takes place at a very difficult moment in time. With regard to the European Foundry Industry we have to notice a decrease of more than 35% for the ferrous and of more than 30% for the non-ferrous foundries. The crisis seemed to come to an end. But forecasts predict that for the European foundry industry 2010 might be even harder than the dramatic year of 2009. As if this would not have been enough, the financial crisis which turned out to be a Euro-crisis, started. In previous forecasts it has been said, that especially the first half 2010 can be bumpy. Now, we can see that there are signs that might be interpreted as a more or less stable upward trend. To a certain extent, the new financial crisis questions this trend.

For the foundry industry the crisis is a throwback to the level of 2005. We will need a few years to reach the level of 2007. Problems with pre-financing could limit the recovery process.

But even if there are still question marks and serious problems to be solved, we have to lift our heads and we have to look at the mid- and long-term indicators, which show a clearly positive trend. The foundry industry has a positive perspective. We have to accept the challenges which might be characterised by the notions globalisation, internationalisation and sustainable development. We will certainly learn more about the megatrends by the key note speech: It is the early bird that catches the worm. The lesson to learn is to identify the future needs as early as possible and to adapt the strategy in order to lead the pack.

Without anticipating the key note speech, I think that the topics identified by the IFF that will be the subject of the guiding lectures are certainly of crucial importance: mobility and energy

International Foundry Forum 2010 in Barcelona, 10-11 September 2010
Andrzej Ryba, President of CAEF
Welcome

will be dominating factors in the years to come. And: to a major extent both topics will be influenced by climate policy. I am absolutely sure that this matter will be mentioned in every lecture of this event.

Consequently, the first session of the customer industries' presentations will be dedicated to energy and resources. The second and even more important focus will be the automotive industry. More than half of our production goes into this sector and therefore we tried to point out the different aspects such as passenger and commercial vehicles. The diecasting technology is also addressed in a separate lecture. The overview on power train concepts will be completed by a lecture on large diesel engines

Providing information by lectures is one aim of the International Foundry Forum. Making contacts is the other. For this purpose, the IFF offers an opportunity to form networks.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let us seize the opportunities that are offered by this forum, let us absorb ideas for new market opportunities, new methods, and new technologies so that our companies may retain or renew their success in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby declare the sixth International Foundry Forum 2010 in Barcelona officially open. I would now like to ask the President of the European Foundry Equipment Suppliers' Association, Mr Gabriele Galante, to take the floor.