

Words of welcome on behalf of the German confectionery industry

Dr. Dietmar Kendziur
(Managing Director Ferrero Deutschland GmbH and Chairman BDSI e.V.)

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you here in the city of Berlin on behalf of the Association of the German Confectionery Industry, short - BDSI, who's Chairman I have the honour of being.

Berlin, as you may well know, has for many years had a strong connection with the cocoa and chocolate industry. Before the war a number of renowned chocolate producing companies like "Sarotti" and "Leonhard Monheim Group" were based in Berlin. After the war, when Berlin was an "island" behind the "iron curtain", the processing of soft commodities like cocoa, coffee and tobacco were pillars of the economic prosperity and growth of the city. Even today big cocoa and chocolate producing companies are still based in or around Berlin. You have therefore chosen not only a very lively and interesting city, but also a city with a great cocoa tradition for your Concoction.

The German cocoa and chocolate markets are certainly one of the most important in the European Union. With grindings of more than 320,000 tons in 2006 and a total use of bean equivalent of more than 380,000 tons Germany plays a major role in cocoa world. The turnover of the 90 companies producing chocolate and chocolate products for the final consumer in Germany amounted to 4.4 billion Euros last year and thus highlighting the importance of this sector of the confectionery industry.

Of course we all know of the problems arising around our products and the commodities we use. On the one hand the consumer attributes very

positive health and nutritional aspects with the consumption of cocoa and chocolate products. On the other hand there are such problematic issues as "worst forms of child labour" and "forced labour", which have to be tackled and which we all have in mind when we work on our corporate social responsibility statements. I am pleased to see, that both these major topics are taken care of not only here at your Concoction, but also in a very broad international scale. The activities and programmes, which the global cocoa and chocolate industry has been working on over the last eight years namely in West Africa, but also in other parts of the world, is very substantial and important for all our industries. Furthermore I am happy to see, that also the International Cocoa Organization is intensively looking into the work on "a sustainable cocoa economy" and that a workshop on this topic will be held very shortly in Accra. I was very disappointed to hear that the symposium "Surprising facts about cocoa as a food for good health", organized by ICCO, which was to be held in London next January, had to be called off due to the lack of funds – or in other words due to the lack of sponsors from our industry –! That is really a great pity. We do believe, that such an activity can help to get the good message about the beneficial effects of cocoa and chocolate across to the consumers.

We can only hope, that the regulations on nutrition and health claims made with chocolate products will in the end not lead the consumer from abstaining from our products. Our association – the BDSI – will certainly work hard together with you – the ECA – and others like our European association CAOBISCO to prevent negative effects for our products, which we believe are part of a healthy diet in our daily lives.

I wish you all the best of success in your companies and fruitful deliberation during this Concoction.