



CIES - The Food Business Forum

PRESS RELEASE

18th June, 2003

The CIES World Food Business Summit Barcelona, Spain, 18-20 June 2003

CIES and 50 years of modern retailing

18th June 2003 – Today the CIES World Food Business Summit opens in Spain. The event, with **over 900 delegates drawn from 40 countries**, brings together the key players of the global food business.

This year's theme is "**Success in an Age of Scepticism**". Over three days, the Summit will focus on **innovation**, on the **consumer**, on **corporate governance**, on **leadership** and on **achieving sustainable success**.

Participants will include CEOs and top management of the 400 CIES member companies, gathered to meet each other and to hear presentations from, amongst others:

- **Daniel Bernard**, Chairman & CEO, Carrefour Group
- **Josep Pique**, Spanish Minister of Science and Technology
- **Jacques Rogge**, President, International Olympic Committee
- **Jeremy Rifkin**, President, The Foundation on Economic Trends
- **Cesáreo Fernández**, Chairman of the Board, Wal-Mart de Mexico
- **Enric Casi**, Managing Director, Mango
- **Howard Schultz**, Chairman & Chief Strategist, Starbucks Coffee Company
- **Irene Khan**, Secretary General, Amnesty International
- **Sir Bob Geldof**, Musician and Founder of Live Aid

Pierre-Olivier Beckers, President & CEO Delhaize Group and Chairman of CIES – The Food Business Forum, stressed the importance of these food business leaders coming together annually, "Not only to obtain actionable insights but also to push forward the agenda of the industry as a whole with regards to issues such as the image of food retailing, accountability of the sector, global cooperation on industry-wide issues and contribution to the community. The Barcelona Summit is an ideal platform for idea sharing and knowledge exchange and will provide an important occasion for CEOs and senior executives to debate these issues with their peers from around the world"

2003 also marks **50 years existence of CIES** and its support of the transformation of food retailing into a leading international business sector. **Richard Fedigan, President and CEO of CIES – The Food Business Forum** commented: "from its beginnings in 1953 as an association



of chain stores, CIES has grasped the scope for change in a modern food business that allies international trade and new technology with daily customer service. The core CIES principles of knowledge, exchange and thought leadership have enabled the organisation to consistently anticipate and shape change over five decades.”

About CIES - The Food Business Forum

CIES is the independent global food business network. Our members include more than two thirds of the world's largest food retailers and their suppliers. At the same time, local players from Austria to China and New Zealand to Brazil also play an active role in our organisation. All in all, more than 200 retailer and 200 supplier companies in over 50 countries are part of the international CIES network.

CIES membership is on a company basis. Our programmes are designed for chief executives and their senior management. They cover themes like strategic management, food safety or the image of the food retail sector, and functional areas like marketing, I.T. or supply chain management. These programmes include projects, international conferences and seminars, benchmarking studies, publications and reports, as well as many other tailor-made member services.

The CIES network is based on privileged access to information and contacts. It enables you to step back from daily business life and take in the latest trends and developments in the global food business. By sharing this knowledge, CIES members gain a new perspective on their activities which brings a key advantage in their business.

CIES - The Food Business Forum has been growing with the food business for the last 50 years. No other organisation can offer this depth in knowledge and contacts.



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