

President Fabio Morvilli: The areas of interest to Italy, European projects and the dedicated Master's in European Affairs.

Good morning everyone, I am Fabio Morivilli, President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Belgium. Our chamber is headquartered in Brussels, in the heart of Europe, and with its almost 75 years of presence and experience it is at the service of companies that want to explore the market of Belgium, which I remember is the sixth largest trading partner with almost 40 billion interchange with Italy.

Belgium is divided into regions, less so than Italy, but the Flanders region and in general all of Belgium are very open to trade and are extremely dynamic. Particularly the region of Flanders, which is in the north, is very reminiscent as an approach of the dynamics of companies in Veneto, which are efficient and export-oriented.

About 70 percent of the interchange between Belgium and Italy comes precisely from Flanders, which has a very rich fabric in small and medium-sized companies, which I repeat being extremely dynamic.

Sectors of great interest are, in addition to the classic agribusiness and tourism, mechanics (the reason why Belgium looks a lot at Italy), but also pharmaceuticals, chemistry, biochemistry, iron and steel, electrical as well as fashion, where we are masters.

The Chamber offers a range of services that accompany companies in all stages of their business development in Belgium, giving great support thanks also to our local associates in all activities like solving bureaucratic or administrative issues, as well as commercial ones, that companies may face in their path of internationalization and presence in Belgium.

I would also like to remind you of the presence of a director of our chamber, of a secretary general who comes from Veneto, Giorgio de Bin. This can obviously foster even more synergies with the world of companies from Veneto, also thanks to the close collaboration with the region and Unioncamere in Veneto.

Our chamber is an access point to the network of bilateral Italian chambers of commerce, which I recall here being present all over the world with 84 chambers in no less than 61 countries. I would like to mention that the president of the Association that groups these 84 chambers is indeed our friend Mario Pozza. Being located in the heart of Europe, our chamber also has a long experience in European projects, assistance and understanding of European issues as well as active participation, and can be your partner.

We were among the first European entities to launch a master's degree in European Affairs and now thanks to our master's history and our alumni, we can boast really deep connections at all levels in Brussels, including in the Commission and Parliament.

The master's degree and the courses brought forward by our chamber still represent a great opportunity for businesses that want to understand and better use European funding. An opportunity that businesses in Veneto should definitely not miss.

We are waiting for you in Brussels, we are waiting for you in Belgium. In case you are interested you should know that there is also an Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg of which I am equally president, given the close proximity also historical between the two countries. In Luxembourg you will equally find activities that can be of great interest, perhaps a little different from those in Belgium but equally interesting.