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**EIMA 2021, good turnout of visitors on opening day**

***The 44th edition of EIMA International was inaugurated this morning. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended, among others, by Undersecretary Manlio Di Stefano, President of the Region Stefano Bonaccini and the Mayor of Bologna Matteo Lepore. The audience of visitors at the exhibition today consisted mainly of foreign businesspeople.***

The 44th edition of EIMA International, the world exhibition of machinery and equipment for agriculture and gardening and related components, opened this morning in Bologna. The event, which will be held at the Bologna exhibition centre until Saturday 23 October, was inaugurated by Alessandro Malavolti and Simona Rapastella, respectively president and general manager of FederUnacoma, the Italian association of agricultural machinery manufacturers, which is also the direct organiser of EIMA. The inauguration was attended by Manlio Di Stefano, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Stefano Bonaccini, President of the Emilia-Romagna Region; Matteo Lepore, Mayor of Bologna; Francesca Ferrandino, Prefect of Bologna; Gianpiero Calzolari, President of BolognaFiere, and Daniele Vaccarino, National President of CNA - ICE.

EIMA International is the first international industry event after the suspension of trade show activities imposed by the health emergency, the only one held during the year – noted the president of FederUnacoma, Alessandro Malavolti – attended by 1,350 manufacturers, 350 of which are foreign, representing 40 countries and occupying a total area of over 100 thousand square metres.

Immediately after the opening ceremony, Malavolti and Rapastella led Undersecretary Di Stefano, President Bonaccini and Mayor Lepore around the stands of the exhibition centre, where they were able to "touch hands-on" the high-tech construction solutions developed by the exhibiting industries for the agricultural sector.

On the opening day of the exhibition, the Bologna exhibition complex were visited mainly by economic operators from all over the world, including the official delegates selected by the ICE offices (about 300 representing 60 countries), who were involved in business meetings with Italian companies, held in the Volvo Congress Centre specially set up for the occasion.

**Bologna, 19 October 2021**