



INTERVENCIÓN DEL MINISTRO DE INDUSTRIA, TURISMO Y COMERCIO

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL MINISTRO DE INDUSTRIA,
TURISMO Y COMERCIO
INAUGURACIÓN FERIA BIO
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
Chicago, 4 mayo 2010**

Dear President Greenwood

Governor Quinn

Governor Granholm

Governor Doyle

Governor Nixon

Major Daley

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be part of the opening ceremony of BIO International Convention, the World's largest gathering of the global biotech community. And even more, to be awarded the International Leadership Award.

In recent years our biotechnology sector in Spain has experienced a significant growth in innovation, and scientific and business activity. Biotechnology in Spain is a reality. Our companies are leaders in the areas of oncology and neurodegenerative or inflammatory diseases, both in basic and applied research and in clinical diagnosis.

[The foundations of this success are a strong scientific base, a highly skilled human capital, a cutting-edge technological and physical infrastructure and a well-integrated health system.

To achieve it, we have combined the thrust of our business initiative with public support to R&D.].

Spain is the fastest growing country in the biotech international arena and we have a growing reputation for excellency: in the last two years, the number of companies devoted to biotechnology has increased by 40 percent, and our researchers are responsible for more than 3% of the scientific articles published in the world. (Our GDP is less than 2% of world GDP).

The European reference center for biotechnological information, the European Observatory for Biotechnology, is located at Barcelona. The European Stem Cell Network has its permanent Secretariat in Seville. And the strength of Spanish research has also prompted international companies to set up research facilities and labs in Spain.

The Spanish presence in this year's BIO edition reflects this successful evolution of our sector and our biotech companies. This time we have come in force, with 107 exhibitors and the largest stand, which I encourage you to visit. You will find there our leading companies, with activities in several cutting-edge areas in the field of biotechnology, and a growing body of strong regional clusters or bioregions.

As I said, all this has been possible largely because of the support of the Spanish Government. We have devoted vast efforts to support R&D and to improve the position of biotechnology Spanish companies in the international arena.

The Ministry that I lead is committed and will remain committed to supporting Spanish companies. Abroad in particular we support the U.S. market as the place of choice for our most innovative biotechnology firms. The US offers huge opportunities for cooperation, growth and mutual benefit. The successful stories of Grifols, Progenika or Cellerix in the U.S., for instance, are something that inspires our companies and ourselves.

The Spanish biotech sector is not the only one we are proud of: renewable energy, high-speed rail, environmental services, ICT and infrastructures are other proofs of the success of the Spanish industry. The Spanish government strongly supports these sectors because they help our progress towards a knowledge society. Knowledge is more than a powerful tool, is the cornerstone of a more prosperous, sustainable and cooperative future.

This is why I am particularly pleased to be here today at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for BIO, the real meeting point for biotechnology in the United States and around the world.

And this why it is a great honor for me to accept the International Leadership Award on behalf of the Spanish government and the Spanish companies. I accept it with pride. We see this award as a recognition to the expansion of biotechnology in Spain and, in particular, its international expansion.

I wish every success to all participants and my congratulation to the organizers of the show and my deep gratitude to Bio for this award. And please, come and visit our stand!

Thank you very much.