Madame Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all let me **thank the Flemish Government and the European Commission** for organising this conference which has attracted many experts from such a wide area of interest. I would also like to thank the Belgian Presidency for providing the opportunity for the Hungarian Presidency to participate.

We are living in a period full of challenges: the European Union and its Member States have arrived at a turning point. To realise its vision of a sustainable economy, oriented by the changing economic and environmental conditions, the EU formulated the concept of the Knowledge Based Bio-Economy, which is overarching many disciplines. Related to the subject we have heard many excellent presentations and have had the opportunity to discuss the most urgent issues that face us.

All of us are aware of the present global competition in R+D, in which **Europe has unique potential**. The increasingly widening European Research Area is strengthening the link between the EU and its Member States, thus it can employ its research base in the areas of life sciences and biotechnology to greater effect. As a result, **the aim of the EU2020 Strategy of an innovative and resource efficient Europe can be achieved**. Our objective is to establish an economic environment, which generates practice-oriented innovation, preserves natural values, creates workplaces and inspires social cohesion.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I believe we have a very successful day behind us and that we are on the right track towards the common European goals. To build the smart, sustainable and

inclusive Europe envisaged by the EU2020 Strategy we should examine and develop all areas of the Knowledge Based BioEconomy in an integrated and coordinated way. **One of the most important tools for addressing the legacies of the economic and environmental crises is research, development and innovation.** Besides improving competitiveness we are looking for solutions to such societal problems as climate change, food and energy security, the loss of biodiversity and the issues of food safety and ageing population.

Our task is – as it will be of the forthcoming EU Presidency – to establish a more dynamic and integrated Europe which is able to cope with global challenges. As the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy can assure a healthier environment and a better quality of life for the citizens of the modern European society, **all Member States should handle the issue of the bioeconomy as a priority**.

During the Presidency we will take into special consideration the reform of CAP beyond 2013. The aim of the Hungarian Presidency is to have an unanimous Council Conclusion by spring 2011 on the Commission Communication of November 2010. There will be numerous legislative tasks related to the simplification of CAP and its alignment with the Lisbon Treaty.

During the presidency Hungary would like to foster the competitiveness of the European agri-food sector. It is a long-term objective to promote the agricultural R+D and innovation, the development of the European Research Area and its linkage with a social dimension.

Beyond this we believe that it is important to carry forward the legislative processes of the Belgian Presidency such as the regulation of the milk sector and

of animal health, the issue of agricultural quality assurance, genetically modified organisms, sustainable production and resource efficiency.

Once again, I would like to thank the organisers and the participants for bringing this conference to a successful conclusion. Thank you for the fresh thoughts and new approaches, which you shared with us all. **I can assure you that the Hungarian Presidency will do its utmost to carry forward the work of the Belgian Presidency.**

At the same time, **I would like to ask you to support the Hungarian Presidency as well with your constructive suggestions and ideas**, to help it to fulfil its tasks, with special attention to the vision, which was conceived during this conference today.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you success in your further work.