



POTRAVINOVÉ
BANKY



OPENING REMARKS

6 May 2021

Jacques Vandenschrik – President, European Food Banks Federation (FEBA)

Full speech

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear friends

I would like to welcome each of you to our FEBA Annual Convention 2021 - "For a sustainable future food system". FEBA Annual Convention 2021 is recognised as a UN Food Systems Independent Dialogue and wants to offer opportunities for all participants to engage directly in proposing pathways towards sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative actions.

We are here more than 300 participants from 39 different countries.

A big thank you to our members and all the food bankers who are present here today for having accepted to participate in your FEBA Annual Convention and a particular word of gratitude to the Česká Federace Potravinových Bank for their involvement in preparing this convention.

I also want to thank the European Commission and General Mills Foundation for supporting this Annual Convention.

I welcome our partners of Feeding America and The Global FoodBanking Network.



This event has received Financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social.easi>. The information expressed during this event does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

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Moreover, we have most distinguished guests to honour, such as the FAO, the European institutions, and many partners. Their presence is a concrete sign of their commitment and encouragement.

The last FEBA Annual Convention took place in Rome in 2019; last year due to the unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel the FEBA Annual Convention in Berlin. This year for the first time we hold the FEBA Annual Convention virtually. Despite the digital tool, we will respect our tradition and start with the Ode to Joy. We dedicate it to everyone who suffers and faces a difficult period, to everyone who lives and gives with courage, to everyone who brings people together, to everyone who shares joy and the fruits of their work.

ODE TO JOY

FEBA Annual Convention 2021 has an important theme: "For a sustainable future food system". COVID-19 has been a challenge for everyone. During these difficult times we have reconnected with the significance of small and concrete gestures of attention because they can express better than any word, the importance of people close to us. This is particularly so for those in need. For food bankers, the daily dedication to people consists in recovering, sorting, storing and redistributing food that could become waste. And there is the miracle of circular economy at work. That food, rather than be discarded is not only regaining its full nutritional value but becomes the testimony of human solidarity for charities and their beneficiaries in need. This is how Food Banks closes the gap between humanitarianism and humanism. The concern for each individual with a personalized response to his/her specific need is the bond between beneficiaries, charities, partners and Food Banks.

I wish you a FEBA Annual Convention 2021 that will enrich everyone thanks to the sharing and learning from others and our efforts to contribute to a sustainable future food system.

I now officially declare open FEBA Annual Convention 2021.



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