

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today. This exhibition has been organised by the European Commission and it is a great honour for me to have been invited to host this event together with Vice-President Kroes.

Vice-President Kroes is responsible for the digital agenda and has made a determined effort to promote the digital agenda, she has been responsible for actively furthering research and technology at a European level. She has also shown particular concern with gender equality and, perhaps, the fact that this exhibition is being hosted by three women is a direct reflection of her beneficial influence in

this respect. Nellie Kroes has been kind enough to agree to give the key note speech.

* * *

I am also delighted to be able to introduce Ms Amalia Sartori, the president of the ITRE committee and a colleague with whom I have enjoyed an extremely fruitful collaboration over the last few years. Amalia Sartori has presided the ITRE committee with skill, efficiency and diplomacy and it a great pleasure to see her here with us this evening.

The exhibition deals with the application of ICT systems to the problems of growth and employment that we are currently experiencing as well as addressing a number of societal challenges such as health, sustainability and mobility. The title of the exhibition includes the notion of "made in Europe". I am particularly keen to see the results of European research and innovation being associated with excellence. "Made in Europe", for me, should be synonymous with the highest quality.

The exhibition gives a wonderful illustration of the numerous improvements in quality of life that breakthrough technologies should be able to provide in a not too distant future. All

that remains for me to say is that I hope you will have the time to visit the exhibition and to marvel at the future that awaits us.

(I invite you to a guided tour after the glass of champagne or to schedule a guided tour to the exhibition at the Commission desk for Tuesday and Wednesday.)