

On the 7 and 8 of May, 2009 was held in Madrid, Spain, the I **National Congress on Professional Cleaning and Hygiene**, in which more than 300 companies pooled crucial issues concerning the cleaning sector in premises and buildings, from the most common problems or priority needs, to issues relating to worker safety or environmental issues.

More than 21,000 companies in Spain constitute a sector that generates a turnover of more than seven billion euros. The professional cleaning industry is essential for the Spanish economy, acting as a generator of national wealth, providing employment to more than 350,000 people in Spain.

The celebration of the I **National Congress on Professional Cleaning and Hygiene** brought together the sectors that provide services, machinery, chemicals, accessories, and tools involved in cleaning and hygiene. The Organizing Committee consists of the five associations and federations that most represents the industry, both by turnover and by number of jobs. In this way, and from the experience of both the organizers and participants and attendees, has become visible to society and public authorities the importance, needs and dynamics of the sector of Professional Cleaning.

ADELMA



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CONGRESO NACIONAL  
DE LIMPIEZA E HIGIENE  
PROFESIONAL

National Congress on Professional Cleaning and Hygiene

## Main conclusions

- The sector of Professional Cleaning and Hygiene has considerable influence in **economic and social** aspects of Spain. Regarding the first, it means a significant rate of the national GDP and is notable for being one of the sectors that generate more employment. Specifically, according to 2008 data, all the companies of cleaning of buildings (offices, hospitals, shops ...) along with industrial cleaning, machinery, chemicals, supplies and accessories, and cleaning roads, account for the 1.5% of the Spanish GDP. From a social point of view, in addition to providing comfort, and contribute to public health, the industry promotes social integration and employment of certain groups of difficult insertion.
- **Environmental protection** and **sustainable growth** are two commitments that businesses and professionals have made, who see sustainability as a factor to win consumer confidence and to meet the standards of protection of society and the environment.
- The Spanish society has acquired a standard of living and development which demand increasingly higher levels of hygiene and cleanliness in public places and workplaces, which certainly promises a **future growth** for the sector.

- **The enhancement of specific professional training** and its recognition through relevant formal qualifications, is a need for the industry which works for the professionalization of customer services in order to **increase their quality**.

- **Public administrations**, one of the major clients of the sector, should be aware of the importance of applying criteria for "best value" in the procurement of services and to take action. They must also **act on the non-payment** of services rendered, which creates significant problems, particularly in sectors intensive in labour.

The Congress has shown a growing interest in achieving wider cross-sector collaboration in Professional Cleaning. Without any doubt, this collaboration would make it easier to deal with common problems and achieve greater and better solutions. For this reason, the I Congress has become the starting point for successive editions in which more partnerships and companies with interests in professional cleaning will be represented, such as professional cleaning, street cleaning, urban waste management and cleaning techniques, among others.

We invite you to participate in the  
**II NATIONAL CONGRESS ON PROFESSIONAL CLEANING AND HYGIENE**  
from the 5 and 6 of May, 2011 in Barcelona, Spain,  
with an interesting program and presentations for transforming the current  
economic crisis on new market opportunities!

« The Congress has been a meeting point for all parts of the professional cleaning where we could exchange views and needs of each other »

Juan Vicente Robledo, CEO of ADELMA



« The Congress of Professional Cleaning has provided an act of maturity of our industry. Our activity is the provision of thousands of businesses and individuals to a modern society that demands more quality of life and higher levels of cleanliness »

Javier Cucalón, President of AEFIMIL



« The Congress has been an unquestionable success, a milestone that marks the beginning of a process which no doubt will bring clear benefits for the sector as a whole »

José Pinent Isart, President of ASFEL



« The Congress has been the first step to launch future initiatives to benefit the sector »

Antonio Colina Robledo, General Secretary of ASPEL



« This Congress has been a success both for content and for the participation of the attendees. Our goal will be to overcome its standard in the next Congress to be held in 2011 »

Juan Carlos Sánchez Vecina, President of AFELIN

