



**UNITAB**

## **Motion of the 34th UNITAB congress in Perugia (Italy), October 28th 2014**

*The representatives of 80 000 growers and 350 000 workers in the sector gathered together at the Unitab's 34th congress in Perugia, Italy, on October 28th, World Day of Tobacco growers, in remembrance of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus*

- **recall** their determination and faith in their growing, which appears to be, more than ever, the pillar of their businesses and an irreplaceable factor of rural development in Europe, in a period of widespread change in agricultural practice;
- **recognize** the need to adapt their growing to the needs of the market and of civil society but **ask for public support** to accompany these efforts, just like it exists for other crops, particularly through measures carried out by European regions on rural development;
- **urge** the national and European public authorities not to demonize the agricultural sector through purely ideological and inefficient critics, by introducing for instance the plain packaging or over-using European recommendations limiting ingredients that Member States will have to apply. At the same time, tobacco growers recognize the legitimacy of health public policies;
- **expect** manufactures to behave as real partners by recognizing the assets of stability, perseverance and traceability of European producers, as well as their know-how and their responsible social and environmental attitude. This recognition should urge manufacturers to sign, under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture, multi-year contracts until 2020, taking into account the changes in production costs, which is the only sustainable guarantee of visibility in terms of volume;
- **claim for** the establishment of interbranch organizations, regrouping the different actors of the value chain, to create rules able to guarantee the good functioning of markets in a time where CMOs and CAP are disappearing under the pressure of deregulation and atomization of European agricultural policies.