Established a permanent table to concretely promote the culture and practice of sustainability along the wine supply chain

**Equalitas and FederBio: together for the agreement protocol for the sustainable development of winemaking companies**

**Wednesday, March 20th has been signed the memorandum of understanding between Equalitas (standard-owner controlled by Federdoc) and FederBio,** the interprofessional organisation that enhances and protects Italian agriculture and organic production. **The agreement aims to support an integrated approach shared by institutions, businesses and operators in the wine sector on the theme of organic sustainability.**

The core of the agreement, signed during an event in Rome, is the promotion of an approach that integrates the organic certification with the Equalitas Sustainable Wine Standard as a model for environmental and social protection and constant challenge for wineries, increasingly attentive and sensitive to these issues. In fact, the Italian wine sector is proving to be excellence, with already 18% of the certified organic production and over a billion bottles of wine from companies certified sustainable according to the Equalitas standard.

During the meeting, moderated by Francesca Romana Barberini, Maria Grazia Mammuccini – President of FederBio, Riccardo Ricci Curbastro President of Equalits and Luigi D'Eramo Sottosegretario MASAF intervened.

Starting from the joint commitment to correct and transparent communication to the consumer, the protocol aims on the one hand to train and assist wineries that want to integrate both the management models, Organic and Equalitas Sustainable Wine, towards a comprehensive and advanced approach to corporate responsibility, facilitating joint controls where possible. On the other hand, work on strengthening the requirements of organic farming, as a strategic EU resource, in the design of sustainable wine management, on issues such as the traceability of products and processes, the protection of biodiversity, and the health of consumers and operators.

*"Certification represents an added value of Italian products. The protocol signed today by Equalitas and FederBio aims to integrate and enhance the three pillars of sustainability: the environmental, social, and economic. Training, research, and adequate communication will give further impetus to our excellent sectors such as the wine sector",* ***said Luigi D'Eramo, Sottosegretario at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests.***

*"By integrating the principles of two of the most important sustainable certifications, the agreement with Equalitas represents a significant step forward for the 360-degree enhancement of agro-ecological viticulture. It combines, in fact, the quality of organic certification, a guarantee of environmentally friendly agronomic techniques, with the Equalitas Standard, which attests to the sustainability of the entire supply chain, evaluating the carbon footprint and good social practices. In addition, the permanent work table that will be activated will ensure training, research and communication to make Italian organic and sustainable viticulture increasingly an international excellence",* ***underlines Maria Grazia Mammuccini, President of FederBio.***

*"With this agreement, which Equalitas signs to make system, we hope that the institutions also note the request for rationalization that comes from companies, recognizing and supporting the various ways of approaching sustainability but also defining it in a complete, serious, and transparent way."* ***said Riccardo Ricci Curbastro, President of Equalitas.***

**Profilo Equalitas**

Equalitas is a company whose shares are mostly held by Federdoc, Federation of Consortia of Denomination of Origin Wines, the only interprofessional body existing in Italy in the field of wine, the table around which the agricultural components, industrial, cooperative and commercial sectors come together to address the problems of denominations by seeking common solutions and ensuring the contribution to their protection.

Equalitas is the owner of the homonymous Standard, which allows the certification of different levels of sustainability: products, wineries and territories, as defined by an articulated set of requirements, all verifiable and measurable, relating to the 3 pillars (environmental, social, economic) and is structured in such a way that it can be certified by a third and independent party, thus defining a certification system that complies with international standards in this field.

**Profilo FederBio**

Federbio is a national federation founded in 1992 on the initiative of organizations of the entire chain of organic and biodynamic agriculture, to protect and encourage its development. FederBio member of IFOAM and ACCREDIA, the Italian body for the accreditation of certification bodies, is recognized as institutional sector representation within national and regional tables.

Through its member organizations, FederBio brings together almost all the representatives of the organic sector, including the main Italian companies in the fields of production, distribution, certification, standardisation, and protection of the interests of organic operators and technicians.

The Federation is structured into five thematic and professional sections: Producers, Certification Bodies, Processors and Distributors, Service Operators and Technicians, and Cultural Associations. Federbio guarantees the strictness and correctness of the members' behaviors according to the Code of Ethics and verifies the application of common standards.

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