

## **SPEECH BY DAVID MARKEY**

PRESIDENT IFAJ

Minister, President of the Swiss Agricultural Journalists Association distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure as President of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists to address you on behalf of our members, we are looking forward to a wonderful congress over the next few days. A lot of planning goes into the smooth running of a IFAJ World Congress, and I want to pay tribute to the organising committee, and particularly to Hans Muller and Marcus Rediger. The World of Agriculture is changing as farmers across the world contract in numbers , globalisation and liberalisation will have a major impact on how we farm in the future. We are looking forward to getting some insights into the lives of Swiss Farmers and how they are embracing these changes and what there plans are for the future. The IFAJ is a organisation comprising of 30 members we are proud to have Switzerland as a member, they have played a significant role in the development of IFAJ over the past 40 years?. The last congress hosted by Switzerland was in 1989 , many things have changed since then and we look forward to experiencing your culture and traditions, your food and your drink. Finally I would like to thank your Minister and his government for supporting the initiative of bringing this World Congress back to Switzerland and to the beautiful city of Thun.