

Export and Sustainability:

Itelyum stars at the Serbia-Italy Business Forum in Belgrade

In Belgrade, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani emphasised the industrial cooperation between the two countries represented by the vitality of our system, also witnessed by the recent acquisition in Serbia of Jakob Becker by Itelyum, which brings its own know-how on waste circularity.

Belgrade 31 January 2025 - Belgrade today hosted a new edition of the **Serbia-Italy Economic Forum**, an event of European significance aimed at promoting business development in the Balkans. As part of the bilateral meeting between the two governments, Italian excellences in the production sector were presented, including **Itelyum**, a European leader in sustainable waste management and resource valorisation.

Itelyum recently acquired **Jakob Becker d.o.o. Serbia**, a leading player in the management of industrial waste, both hazardous and non-hazardous. The Serbian company has a solid infrastructure for the collection, storage and export notification of industrial and hazardous waste, where no alternative solutions are available in Serbia. The Ruma site, located in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, about 60 km north-east of Belgrade, is a strategic hub in a region characterised by a high concentration of industrial plants.

The prestigious event, organised by the ICE Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Embassy in Belgrade, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, testified to the strengthening of the bilateral economic partnership between Serbia and Italy. The presence of **Minister Antonio Tajani** underlined the importance of industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Among the highlights of the Forum, a round table dedicated to the circular economy and energy transition was attended by Itelyum. **Marco Codognola, CEO of Itelyum** and Italian voice in the recycling sector, highlighted how *'Serbia represents a strategic market for Italian exports in Central and Eastern Europe, with a constant growth trend. Italy is among the country's main trade partners, preceded only by Germany and China. We are proud to represent here the Italian model of excellence in recycling. Our circular and sustainable approach pushes us to develop our business beyond national borders, in interesting areas ready to take on new industrial challenges. Challenges centred on a virtuous path, both economically and environmentally, of decarbonisation. Starting from the extraction of value from their waste with a view to a true circular economy, passing through the treatment of industrial water, to the reclamation of polluted territories. Today, together with our Serbian colleagues and the state agencies of both countries, we are taking a significant step in this direction.'*

The Forum facilitated meetings between experts and decision-makers from both countries, promoting expertise and innovation. Now the aim is to facilitate the signing of new cooperation agreements between Italian and Serbian authorities and companies, further consolidating bilateral economic relations.

Itelyum is a national leader and international player in industrial waste management and recovery. With a strong local presence and a global vision, Itelyum is the benchmark for sustainable solutions to support the circular economy and the future of the planet.

Its main activities include:

- Regeneration: valorisation of used lubricating oil, transforming it into new regenerated bases with quality characteristics comparable to crude oil, with significant savings in CO2 emissions.
- Industrial effluent purification: recovery of chemicals and oil fractions from chemical and pharmaceutical industry effluents for the same markets or new industrial uses; production of high purity solvents.
- Integrated industrial waste management: a group of companies that manage a variety of 'one stop shop' services to special waste producers throughout the country; their active presence in all phases of land and port waste management, from collection, storage, transport and pre-treatment, is complemented by service and brokerage activities, environmental consulting, chemical and safety analyses.

The numbers of Itelyum:

- approximately €600 million in revenues
- 43 companies
- more than 1,500 employees
- 45,000+ customers
- over 60 countries served