



### **Birth of ASSOTIC: the Italian Federation of associations operating in the field of TIC– Testing, Inspection, Certification**

On Friday 31 January 2020 in Bologna was born ASSOTIC - Federation of Italian Associations operating in the TIC sector, the result of the union of the four associations ALPI, ALA, AIOCI and UNOA, bringing together over 140 Bodies and Laboratories in the TIC sector (Testing, Inspection, Certification).

The main objectives of ASSOTIC are: to increase awareness of association representativeness, to create greater synergy between public and private interests, to broaden skills and to increase the level of knowledge between associated companies in order to manage ever wider and more complex fields.

The founding members: Paolo Moscatti representing ALPI, Vincenzo Patti representing AIOICI, Angelo Trapanà representing UNOA and Battista Nicoli representing ALA, formally constituted the new national entity in the presence of a Notary. The Federation is an entity with its own legal personality aimed to represent the entire world of associations including bodies and laboratories, which carry out certification and conformity assessment activities in Italy and abroad in a voluntary and / or mandatory context: Testing Laboratories, Laboratories of Calibration, Certification Bodies and Inspection Bodies, Notified and Qualified Bodies.

The leader of the new Federation will be Dr. Vincenzo Patti, currently President of AIOICI.

"Today's step - the Presidents of the federated associations jointly declare - stems from the urgent need to of a unitary entity, endowed with its own legal personality, able to interact with institutional bodies and the business world in an always proactive way, strengthening simultaneously links with international stakeholders, thus bringing the voice and experience of Italian bodies to the tables where the rules and regulations governing testing, inspection and certification are discussed and decided; these activities are little known by non-professionals but they are fundamental to assure the quality and safety of food, the environment, the industrial and consumer goods."

### **More in deep**

The international conformity assessment system, governed by EC Regulation no. 765/2008, is the tool to ensure the safety and quality of goods and services, promoting exchanges and strengthening the natural competitive dynamics in the European Union.

The Italian companies, through the unique accreditation body, ACCREDIA, hold an important position at European and international level, thanks to the mutual recognition agreements EA, IAF and ILAC through which accredited certifications and inspections, tests and calibrations, goods, services and certified professionals, valid in Italy are recognised in all markets.

Between 2017 and 2018 the number of accreditations increased from 1,699 to 1,776 accredited bodies and laboratories for the various schemes. This data assesses the value that the market has recognized for the system of environmental certifications, inspections and verifications, as well as tests, medical analyses and calibrations carried out under accreditation.

Similarly, the verification activity carried out by ACCREDIA grew by 6% compared to 2017, reaching 15,320 evaluation days, by 544 inspectors and qualified experts.

The TIC Italian sector generates an overall market including over 1200 test laboratories, over 640 certification and inspection bodies and about 190 calibration laboratories, employing more than 600 inspectors and experts on a national scale.

The activities of the TIC sector bodies (test laboratories, calibration laboratories, conformity assessment and certification bodies, inspection bodies), are little known by non-experts, but they are fundamental to ensure the quality and safety of food, environment, industrial and consumer goods.

ASSOTIC, by pooling the resources and skills of 140 bodies, aims to strengthen both their representativeness and their contribution to improve the quality and safety of industrial and consumer goods, food and the environment, which are determining factors for the competitiveness of businesses and for the quality of life of citizens.