



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



With the collaboration of:



Report of the inaugural conference of the *"EU Observatory, connecting worlds to promote European Education among Universities, schools and civil society organizations"* project

“Strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union Building Political Union”

From the Italian Semester of Presidency of the EU Council to current developments

Friday April 10th, 2015

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Opening of the Conference

The Conference has been opened with the introductory addresses of: **Eugenio Gaudio**, Chancellor Sapienza University of Rome, **Umberto Triulzi**, Chancellor Delegate for Cooperation, Head of the European Observatory, **Luljeta Minxhozi**, European University of Tirana, and **Francesco Gui**, Coordinator University for Europe.



All the participations comprised in the second round have been dense of contents. The participants to the debate have been: **Sandro Gozi**, Undersecretary of State with responsibility of European Affairs, The Presidency of the Council of Ministers, **Vannino Chiti**, President, Permanent Commission for European Union Policies, **Roberto Gualtieri**, Chairman, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Parliament, **Carmelo Cedrone**, Deputy President of the Economic Commission, European Social and Economic Committee, and **Alberto Cutillo**, Deputy Director General for European Integration, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Illustrating their daily experiences, the participants have had the possibility to introduce, in the debate, arguments deriving from various points of view. The attention of Gozi, Chiti and Cutillo has been mainly revolt to the analysis of the political results of the Semester of Presidency. Gozi and Cutillo have headed at the necessity of a stronger European integration. Chiti has focused the attention on the modality of use of economic resources for the regional development.

Cedrone has spoken about the lack of occupation perspectives and about the necessity of modifying the basic European rules. Gualtieri, at the same time and in an historical perspective, has remarked the difficulties related to the economic, political and social crisis.



11:30 am – 1:00 pm

In a truly United Europe: opportunities for Science and Research

The participants to this important debate have been: **Alberto Prestininzi**, Chair of Geology, Sapienza University of Rome, **Giorgio Alleva**, President, National Institute of Statistics, ISTAT, and **Fernando Ferroni**, President, National Institute of Nuclear Physics, INFN.



During the debate, Prestininzi has spoken about the possibility of studying European plans for the prevention of natural hazards. Alleva, directly from his experiences as a researcher, has focused the attention on the technological advantages of the European system of statistical analysis. The Ferroni's intervention has been the last of the first session. The speaker has headed at the difficulties of the Italian scientific infrastructures, at the problem of the European research's standards and at the question of the effects of the failed wages' trade-off.

2:30 pm – 6:30 pm

The dawn of political Union: events and results of the semester, the agenda of 2015

Francesco Tufarelli, manager at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and **Anna Maria Giordano**, journalist of RAI Radio 3, intervened during the second part of the conference, moderated by **Giampiero Gramaglia**, director of Euractiv.it.



The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is assigned to pre-established groups of three Member States for a period of 18 months. Italy began its rotating presidency 1st July 2014, at the end of the Greek Presidency, becoming part of the group with Latvia and Luxembourg.

Italy and the other two countries have determined a program for one year and a half whose goal is growth. During the semester of Presidency, Italy has played an important role of monitoring the functioning of Europe 2020 strategy, ten-year strategy for growth and jobs that the European Union has launched in 2010. Italy has sent to the European Commission a document with its evaluations and proposals considering the revision of the strategy planned in spring 2015.

Tufarelli declared that, for instance, the digital agenda is one of the priorities of the current rotating Presidency. Indeed, Latvia asked Italy to open this dossier and, now, the Latvian Presidency is continuing the job.

The results obtained during the Italian semester show the desire to work for change.

Giampiero Gramaglia asked Anna Maria Giordano: “The press has been able to give information about the European Union to citizens?”

Anna Maria Giordano, journalist of RAI Radio 3, said: “Before the beginning of the Italian semester, there was a lack of information about it. If the semester had to be an opportunity to spread correct information, the Italian media haven't taken this chance” and she continued “many newspapers spoke of white semester, given the few achievements”.

“The Italian semester meant telling their activities to the European institutions as a function of domestic policy” said Giordano at the end of her intervention.

During the conference, there has also been the presentation of the book: *“Verso la federazione europea? Tappe e svolte di un lungo cammino”* by **Prof. Antonio Padoa Schioppa**. The presentation has been moderated by **Prof. Roberto Valle**, and was commented by **Prof. Carlo Curti Gialdino** and **Prof. Beniamino Caravita di Toritto**. The book analyzes the institutional evolution of the EU over the decades and evaluates the obstacles that slow down the process towards a real federal Union.



Padoa Schioppa declared: “The phase of national sovereignty has been overtaken. The European Union is a federation in progress. The goal must be the federation, at least in the name of the principle of subsidiarity”.

About the Juncker Plan, he claimed: “Currently the plan needs an appropriate amount of resources of public money at European level. The missing link is a fiscal system at European level”.

As we know, it's impossible to introduce amendments to the European treaties in the absence of unanimity of governments and ratifications (art. 48 TEU).

According to the author of the book, it would be enough to change three or four articles of the treaties to reach the European federal structure.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union