



FONDAZIONE BANCO DI SICILIA MEETS THE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN ROME

2nd Meeting prior to the next Taormina Forum

Milan, April 21st, 2010- It was held in Rome the second meeting with the African Ambassadors, prior to the Forum *Developing the regions of Africa and Europe* organized by Fondazione Banco di Sicilia, in cooperation with The European House - Ambrosetti, whose fourth edition will take place in Taormina on October 7 – 8, 2010.

The Forum which is part of a multi-year project (as a matter of fact it follows those held in the past three years entitled *Developing Africa: an opportunity for Europe, Italy and Sicily*) summons up decision- makers, politicians and economists from around the world to start, once a year in Sicily, a debate focused on Africa and its potential in terms of economic capacity that can fulfill business ventures and get international players involved.

At the meeting in Rome, the partakers composed of diplomatic representatives of several African countries* including Giovanni Puglisi, Chairman of the Fondazione Banco di Sicilia and Valerio De Molli, managing partner of The European House Ambrosetti explained the guidelines on which the fourth edition of the Forum in Taormina will be based:

- Presenting the research progress conducted by The European House - Ambrosetti and aimed at mapping the economic potential of Africa P
- Providing an overview on the future geopolitical framework of the African continent while focusing on key drivers of development in Africa, such as: culture, education, science and technology P
- Proposing the progress of entrepreneurial projects that began on the last edition of the Forum (focused on the areas of telemedicine, training, agro-food) P
- Explaining the important new business prospects related to the phenomenon of urbanization and urban development that characterize the boundaries of the socio-economic dynamics in Africa E

African diplomats have shared the strategic importance of the 'urbanization' issue: everywhere in Africa is going through an intense process of centralization in metropolitan areas. From Egypt to South Africa, cities have been growing and this is why it takes a plan that stops this restless urbanization process.

"Every single edition of the Forum is not an isolated event but a piece of a mosaic, a stage of a multi-year project focused on major issues related to African development. This fourth round is a step forward of a process that began in 2007: today, we can actually speak of serial continuity. The forum is now considered a crucial time for multilateral cooperation not only from a business perspective but also from a cultural and relational one. It is not a coincidence that the contents of forums have been on the agenda of the last G8." says Giovanni Puglisi, Chairman of Fondazione Banco di Sicilia

*The meeting in Rome, sponsored by Fondazione Banco di Sicilia, in addition to **Giuseppe Morabito**, Director General for Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Pietro Sebastiani**, head of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Organizations in Rome (FAO - IFAD) and **Lucio Alberto Savoia** General Secretary of UNESCO Commission, there were diplomatic representatives of:

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| -Republic of Algeria | -Kingdom of Morocco |
| -Republic of Angola | -Republic of Mozambique |
| -Republic of Cameroon | -Republic of Senegal |
| -Arab Republic of Egypt | -Republic of South Africa |
| -Republic of Ghana | -Republic of Uganda |
| -Kingdom of Lesotho | -Republic of Zambia |
| -Republic of Madagascar | -Republic of Kenya |

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