



Minutes of the



Held in Milan on Wednesday, 30 September 2020,
at the offices of Herbert Smith Freehills (“HSF”)

Dear All,

Please find here below a summary of the RT in heading (see attached agenda):

- 1. Attendees:** 64 (see attached LoPs).
- 2. Introduction**

G. Carotenuto, Co-founder and President of Pro Bono Italia (“PBI”), welcomed the 64 attendees to the RT. He pointed out that, notwithstanding the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the pro bono movement in Italy continues its growth in numbers of participants and actions. G. Carotenuto reminded also that, for the first time after the occurrence of the mentioned pandemic and in compliance with the related restrictions, finally the event was held not only online but was also opened to the in-person attendance of 12 people.

L. Orlando, Managing Partner of HSF in Italy, joined Giovanni in welcoming the participants and briefly described the firm’s history focusing on pro bono activities, both abroad and Italy projects. Ms. Orlando concluded saying that in her firm, pro bono is a pleasure, profitable from the human point of view.

- 3. NGOs’ and international organizations’ presentations**

International Development Law Organization (“IDLO”). Alessandra Mistura, Program Coordinator (Commercial and Economic Law), introduced IDLO, which is not a NGO but an international organization. In fact, IDLO is the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law and sustainable development. It has experience working in more than 90 countries around the world with various legal systems and its network includes thousands of trusted experts, alumni and partners. Established as an intergovernmental organization in 1988, IDLO has had United Nations Observer Status since 2001 (see the attached presentation).

Avvocato di Strada. Emilio Robotti, member of Avvocato di Strada, presented the NGO. Avvocato di Strada is a NGO that aims to provide legal assistance for free to homeless people. It was born in 2001 in Bologna and then spread to other Italian cities. Avvocato di Strada aims at providing effective access to justice to marginalized people, guaranteeing legal assistance to people deprived of their fundamental rights (see the attached presentation).

ELSA Italia. Ander Maglica, President of the Italian branch of the European Law Students' Association ("ELSA Italia") presented the NGO. ELSA Italia, founded in 1986 and present in 44 Italian cities, is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit making organisation run by and for students and recent graduates, who are interested in achieving academic and personal excellence in addition to their legal or law-related studies at university. Since 1981, the date of its foundation, ELSA has operated on three levels (local, national, international) and connected more than 40,000 members from 44 European countries. The aim of ELSA Italia is to contribute to legal education and to the promotion of social responsibility. ELSA Italia offers its members the tools to deepen their knowledge and comparison between the different European systems. ELSA Italia has the status of observer at some of the main international institutions, such as the Council of Europe, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

4. Organisations' presentations

Pro Bono Deutschland e.V. ("PBD"). Peter Braun, Speaker of the Board of PBD, presented the organization, which was founded in February 2011. PBD's members are law firms and lawyers practising law in Germany and its statutory objective is to support corporate citizenship in the area of pro bono legal advice for the common good, especially for charitable purposes. PBD is committed to social justice, democracy and the rule of law and to the recognition of human rights in particular. Mr. Braun remarked that, in recent years, PBD started building a network of NPOs (not-for-profit organizations) following the example of PBI and building also a dialog with leading NPO umbrella organisations in order to identify the legal needs of NPOs and, in particular, to determine the legal issues relevant to more than just one NPO. At the same time, it promoted the possibility to support NPOs with advocacy work. Among the challenges that PBD – and all the pro bono movement in general – will face in the future, Mr. Braun talked about the emerging new law market that targets NPOs specifically as well as the mismatch between offer and actual requests by NPOs. (see the attached presentation).

5. The experience of the Italian legal clinics

National Coordination of Legal Clinics ("Coordinamento Nazionale delle Cliniche Legali"). Prof. Marzia Barbera, member of the Board of the National Coordination of Legal Clinics, presented the experience of the Italian legal clinics. To get more information about the Italian legal clinics and their activities, click [here](#).

6. European Pro Bono Initiatives

Update on the Legal Pro Bono Solidarity Resource Center

Giacomo Gavotti, associate at the Milan office of HSF, presented the update on the Legal Pro Bono Solidarity Resource Center ("Resource Center"). As already presented at the 34th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable, the Resource Center was launched – at the end of 2020 – by PBI, in cooperation with HSF and the two clearinghouses of Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti civili (CILD) and CSVnet in response to the health emergency and consists of a database of legal memoranda and tools so as to provide not-for-profit entities with an updated and free guide on the impact thereon of recently issued laws and regulations. G. Gavotti briefly presented an update on the relevant data following the latest Roundtable. In particular, he highlighted that, up to date, the Resource Center counts almost 30 different contributions (concerning either civil law, labour law, third sector and privacy law) from 13 different contributors (lawyers, law firms, notaries public, associations of service centres for volunteering, with offices in about 10 Regions and 20 different cities from North to South). As concerns the analytics of the accesses

to the webpage of the Resource Center, the Italian version was consulted almost 500 times, while the English version was consulted more than 150 times, with an average time spent on the page of about 4 minutes for each access. According to the data analyzed, the peak of visits occurred between April and May 2020, when there were greater uncertainties both under legislative and health point of views. With the end of the lockdown (on 3 June 2020), the accesses to the Resource Center's webpage physiologically decreased. G. Carotenuto highlighted that this initiative has shown an excellent synergy between the many kinds of legal practitioners, all united by the same purpose of solidarity and affirmed that this makes them optimistic about the possibility of joining forces again for specific and identified purposes in the future.

Collaborative Project on European Bar Associations and Pro Bono

Özgür Kahale, Pro Bono Director for Europe of DLA Piper, presented the Collaborative Project on European Bar Associations and Pro Bono (the "Project") and its outcome. PILnet and The European Pro Bono Initiative (informal initiative of European Law Firms) launched this collaborative Project in order to prepare a report on European Bar Associations and pro bono. The purpose of the Project was to highlight positive actions and initiatives of a local Bar Association / Law Society in a particular country towards pro bono. That way, the Project aimed at providing a tool for law firms and clearinghouses to engage with their respective Bar Associations to support the development of pro bono. The results of this study will be also presented during the annual meeting of the European Bars Federation which will be held in Paris in March 2021. The event will gather numerous Bar Presidents and representatives from different European countries and will be an effective venue for discussing the development of pro bono in Europe.

G. Carotenuto remarked that the Italian contribution to the Project was prepared by PBI and CILD.

PILnet Annual Global Forum

G. Carotenuto informed the audience that, while the in-person forum in Dublin is postponed until next year, this year's Global Pro Bono Forum will be virtual (on the online platform called www.hopin.to) and will be held on 19-21 October 2020. Together the participants will find paths to protecting our futures through exploring themes such as fighting for racial justice, activating pro bono in the time of Covid-19, employing the law to protect the planet (e.g., among the sessions, "Contemporary Issues in Digital Rights and Privacy", "Addressing Systemic Racism", and "Covid-19 Legal Responses"). On Monday, 19 October G. Carotenuto will participate as a speaker to the session "Global Pro Bono Clearinghouse Lab - State of the Art: Pro Bono in Europe", a moment that will offers an excellent opportunity to learn about pro bono efforts across the globe. Click [here](#) for more details and click [here](#) to registrate.

Know Your Rights Program - Online edition

Elena Riva of DLA Piper presented the online edition of Know Your Rights Program. In October / November 2020, global business law firm DLA Piper, along with Coalizione Italiana per le Libertà e I Diritti civili, International Rescue Committee and Pro Bono Italia will run the Know Your Rights Project online (using Zoom). Know Your Rights is a legal education programme for asylum seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of different forms of protection who are building new lives in Italy. Participants will receive weekly courses on various legal topics. The program will be for free and the sessions will take place on Zoom. Click [here](#) to download the flyer of the event, with the description of all the scheduled sessions.

7. Presentation of data related to pro bono assistance provided

G. Carotenuto presented the data and figures – provided by Valentina Muglia, Project and Operation Assistant of CILD, and Lara Esposito, of the Communication Area of CSVnet – related to the pro bono requests that the clearinghouse of CILD and CSVnet received in the latest year.

With reference to CILD, focusing on the analysis of 2020, as of September 2020 CILD received 37 requests for assistance, 24 of which have been successfully processed. In particular, 15 (out of 19) requests submitted by NGOs through CILD's clearinghouse were successfully resolved. Topics of interest included GDPR compliance (5), Covid-19 related measures for NGOs (1), bylaws updates (1) and financial transparency (1). The clearinghouse also processed 9 (out of 18) individual requests: topics of interest included citizenship issues (1), passport issues (1), family legacy (1), legal separation (1), work allowance issue (1), eviction of property (1).

As concerns CSVnet's clearinghouse – which operates only with requests of assistance from NGOs and association of service centres for volunteering ("CSV") – in the current year the clearinghouse received 6 requests of legal assistance. The requests concerned several different issues such as request for guidelines on smart working and/or "flexible" working methods, legal advice for damages suffered due to delay in the delivery of a project document, request for update of the bylaws of an association.

G. Carotenuto highlighted that, considering both clearinghouses, the overall figures are of 43 requests received in total in 2020. Compared to the figures for 2019 (60 requests), to date 2020 shows a slight decrease, but it is probable that – within the end of the year – the number of the requests for pro bono legal assistance will be almost the same of the previous year.

8. 3rd edition of Italy Pro Bono Day and 36th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

G. Carotenuto introduced the event, which will take place on Wednesday, 25 November 2020, in Rome, from 10 am to 2 pm at Hogan Lovells (Via Marche, 1-3) and from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Legance Avvocati Associati (Via di San Nicola da Tolentino, 67). The draft agenda foresees a mixed formula (online attendance plus up to 10 people in person). There will be legal training sessions for no-profits in the morning, the 36th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable from 12:30 am to 2 pm, followed by a networking lunch (at Hogan Lovells), as well as a coffee break followed by an afternoon seminar and a celebration event in the afternoon (at Legance). The event will be part of the second edition of the European Pro Bono Week, running from 23 November 2020 and involving about 15 countries across the continent. More details to follow.