



**PILnet Pro Bono Roundtable
(29 April 2014, Milan)**

Discussion Summary

Introductions, PILnet and pro bono in Europe

Federico Sutti (DLA Piper) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He provided words of support and hopes that this will be a start of something bigger and better for pro bono in Italy.

Atanas Politov (PILnet) presented PILnet's pro bono work in Europe, including the annual European Pro Bono Forum and the work of a dozen European pro bono clearinghouses. Atanas also talked about the experience of the Paris and Frankfurt pro bono roundtables.

Anne Grewlich (Ashurst, Frankfurt office) talked about the Frankfurt pro bono roundtable, which started in 2008. In 2011 the law firms participating in the roundtable decided to organize themselves in a new association and registered Pro Bono Deutschland e.V.

Issues and barriers for pro bono in Italy:

Two points were identified as possible regulatory issues for pro bono in Italy – tariffs and advertising for lawyers and law firms.

After long discussions, it was agreed that these are not critical impediments to pro bono work, but that they still need to be managed proactively. The best move forward would be to work on a common base and then approach the Bar Association collectively with a common strategy.

The group also discussed the relationship with ASLA. It was agreed that the RT should cooperate with ASLA, as also most or all law firms present are members of ASLA. Lia Campione (Clifford Chance), who is a board member of ASLA, said she will discuss this with ASLA leadership and come back to the RT. Atanas Politov (PILnet) met with ASLA the day before the RT meeting and received positive feedback to PILnet's pro bono work and plans.

Atanas Politov presented the pro bono clearinghouse model (CH). There are CHs in 14 European jurisdictions, which PILnet either runs or supports. They all come together in a network called the European Pro Bono Alliance. It was discussed and agreed that a CHs in Milan and/or Italy could be a very useful mechanism for the law firms. An NGO was identified as potential CHs for Italy - [Centri di Servizio per il Volontariato](#) (CSV). CSV are based all over Italy and promote a culture of volunteerism, training services and logistical support to local charities and voluntary organizations.

Next steps:

- Next meeting to be hosted by Ashurst on 11 June at 13:00-15:00;

- A working group on “pro bono definition” led by Giovanni Gazzaniga (Allen Overy)
- Cooperation with ASLA, led by Lia Campione (Clifford Chance);
- Agreement to discuss and agree on common approach, strategy in approaching the Bar.
- Discuss the CH idea with CVS, led by PILnet.