



**PILnet 5th Pro Bono Roundtable  
(4 February 2015, Rome)**

**Discussion Summary**

**1. Introduction:**

- On behalf of PILnet Atanas Politov welcomed everyone to the first Rome Pro Bono Roundtable. Claudio Visco welcomed everyone to the offices of Macchi di Cellere Gangemi, the host of this roundtable, and expressed his intention to put pro bono on the agenda of the Bar Association.

**2. 9<sup>th</sup> European Pro Bono Forum:**

- Atanas Politov and Marieanne McKeown provided a short introduction of the European Pro Bono Forum:
  - It will take place from **11-13 Nov 2015** in Rome at Hotel NH Vittorio Veneto.
  - We expect **250-300 participants** from across Italy, Europe and around the world; a mixture of representatives of law firms, companies, NGOs, bar associations and universities.
  - The conference will include a wide range of presentations and discussions related to pro bono. Some will focus on how to build a culture of pro bono in Italy, others will look at best practice in other countries or how to use pro bono support to advance particular human rights issues.
  - The agenda for the conference is developed by PILnet with advice from the Forum **Planning Committee**, a body of 11 members representing law firms, NGOs and companies. Four members of the Italian Pro Bono Roundtable are also members of the Planning Committee: Stefano Macchi di Cellere – Jones Day, Giovanni Carotenuto – Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, Veronica Pinotti – McDermott Will & Emery and Amanda Andreatza – GE.
- As an international event, it is critical for the success of the Forum to have the support of the local legal and NGO community. For this reason PILnet yearly creates a **Forum Host Committee**. Members of the Host Committee have their name and organisation listed on PILnet's website as a supporter of the event. They do not need to attend any extra meetings or take on any active duties, but may get involved if they wish. All members of the Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will receive an invitation to join the Host Committee.
- **Forum participation:** PILnet would like to get as many local Italian law firms, companies and NGOs to the Forum as possible and will therefore rely on members of the Italian Pro Bono Roundtable to make introductions for us to relevant people within their networks.
- **Forum promotion:** Over the next 9 months PILnet would appreciate the assistance of members of the roundtable in promoting the Forum either by posting it in their networks or by introducing us to their contacts in the legal or civil society press.

### 3. Roundtable expansion – going local:

- Since it was agreed that the next roundtable should be in Rome, we should put an **emphasis on inviting a) domestic Italian law firms, and b) those based outside of Rome and Milan, for example Naples, Florence, Palermo** etc.
- It was agreed that **all members of the roundtable should invite three new law firms to join the next meeting**. The full list of roundtable firms and representatives is attached to these minutes. **Please identify three firms that are not on this list and contact Marieanne McKeown before inviting them to ensure that another roundtable member has not already done so, to avoid duplication.**

### 4. Pro Bono Definition:

- It was explained that the purpose of the definition is a) to make it clear what pro bono, a lesser known concept in Italy, is and to whom it applies, b) to make it clear that Italian law and the rules of the bar associations will be upheld.
- Claudio Visco suggested that the ‘voluntary’ element of pro bono should be emphasised so that lawyers would understand that they have a choice whether or not to do it and what pro bono work to do.
- The revised final version of the pro bono definition is attached to these notes.

### 5. NGO Presentations:

- Patrizio Gonella, President of **Associazione Antigone**, and Susanna Marietti presented the work of their NGO to the roundtable. Antigone advocates for the rights of persons in prison. It is also a member of a new network of 29 NGOs in Italy that aim to use strategic litigation to protect human rights – the **Italian Coalition of Civil Rights and Freedoms (Child)**.
  - Together they will work on issues such as tackling Roma discrimination, marriage inequality for same sex couples, freedom of information and advocating for the introduction of a crime of ‘torture’ which does not currently exist under Italian law.
  - The network may need Italian pro bono lawyers to assist with developing litigation strategies, conducting trial monitoring, doing legal research providing representation (occasionally).
- Alberto Cuomo presented the work of the **CSV network** which represents 50,000 volunteer organizations across Italy.
  - CSV are considering whether they will start Italy’s first pro bono clearinghouse. They may pilot it in certain areas first to test how it will work. The proposal will be discussed by their Board soon.

### Next steps:

- Determine the representatives of the Forum Host Committee.
- Get introduced to representatives of local law firms to spread the word about the Rome Forum.
- Send invitations to new law firms to join the next RT meeting.

**Next Roundtable:** The next roundtable will be held in Rome on 18 March 2015. The location will be confirmed closer to the time.