

Minutes of the 17th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Dear All,

Please find here-below the minutes of the 17th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable, which took place last Wednesday, 9th November 2016, at Macchi di Cellere Gangemi, Rome.

Thank you for those who participated either in person or via confcall. There is a constantly growing interest to our common project, which bodes well for the future.

Also, I would like to thank, on behalf of the RT, the hosting firm Macchi di Cellere Gangemi for the warm hospitality, Peter Braun for coming all the way from Frankfurt am Main to tell us about their association, Pro Bono Deutschland, as well as Valentina Casella, Marina Ingrassi, Camilla Savoldi, and Marianna Gobbi Frattini for the kind help in drafting these minutes and for sharing thoughts on to proceed further in the incorporation of “Italy Pro Bono”.

1. **Attendees:** 27 (see attached list).

2. **NGOs' presentations:**

- Avv. A. Salerni (Progetto Diritti), besides summarising the activity of the association (established in 1990), presented the latest hot topics on which they are working (i.e. migrants, refugees, etc.) and, in particular, the “Rome – Dakar” project, aimed at promoting the so-called “conscious returns”. With regard to the help that could be provided by the RT’s members, Mr. Salerni mentioned not only legal translations, but also legal advice in relation to complex projects. We look forward to being able to help them out. During the discussion that followed, P. Gonella (CILD) proposed the creation of a team of “border lawyers” who may provide first-aid assistance to migrants (and refugees) in critical places such as Ventimiglia, Como, Sicily;
- A. Affanni and S. Zanarella (SPES Lazio CSV – Centro Servizi Volontariato per il Lazio) briefly described their role as advisers of the local volunteers’ centers, and mentioned the need to be assisted by outside counsels on complex cases. We look forward to helping them on the latter too;
- Alan Favuzzi (LoveItaly!) talked about the non-profit goal of his start-up (that is, involve young generations of professionals in the promotion and maintenance of our cultural heritage), and mentioned two recent projects concerning Villa Farnesini and Academia dei Lincei. In relation to the latter, Alan is preparing a query to be submitted to our mailing list, re impact thereon of the relevant provisions of the Code of Cultural Heritage.

3. **Incorporation of “Italy Pro Bono”:**

- Peter Braun (Dentons Frankfurt) kindly accepted our invitation and explained to us the genesis of “Pro Bono Deutschland”, which was established five years ago, as well as the peculiarities of the association (e.g. only law so firms, just one single practitioner so far, no in house counsels, no NGOs, Board with 7 members (see attached slides);
- brief discussion on how to structure “Italy Pro Bono” (if opening the membership to NGOs or reserving only to law firms/ lawyers, choice to limit the preliminary discussion on the technical aspects of the incorporation (purpose, eligibility criteria, membership classes, corporate governance, etc.), as well as the drafting of the by-laws, only to law firms/lawyers;

4. **Updates on the activities carried out to date by the clearinghouses (CILD and CSVnet):**

- Very positive feedback on the quick reaction of our members to their requests (on average, in half an hour/an hour the latter are assigned), as well as the high level of the work delivered. Great job!

5. **Actions:**

- For those of you who have not yet sent to Gyöngyvér a one-page profile of your organisation to be posted on our page on PILnet's web-site, please do so at your earliest convenience;
- please send me your thoughts on the association's incorporation. The goal being is to organise one or two meetings among lawyers before next RT, in order to shape the draft by-laws, that will be then circulated to the mailing list for further review and comments.

6. **Next RT:**

- Wednesday, 25th January 2017, at DLA Piper Studio Legale Tributario Associato - Via della Posta 7, Milan. Save the date!

Finally, I am sure you will join me in expressing our deepest sorrow for the loss of Rosella Antonucci, partner at Legance Avvocati Associati, who has been engaged for years, both as responsible for pro bono matters at Legance and member of the RT, in promoting a pro bono culture in Italy.

Kind regards,

Giovanni