

## Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Dear All,

Please find here-below the minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Italian Pro Bono Roundtable (see attached agenda), which took place two weeks ago, on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, at the Milan offices of DLA Piper.

Thank you very much to the hosting firm, to our guest speakers (and, in particular, to Carmen Pombo Morales, Director at Fundaciòn Fernando Pombo, who travelled from Madrid to Milan to deliver her extremely meaningful presentation), as well as to those of you who participated either in person or via conference call. We continue to grow both in number and interest, and this is crucial for winning our next challenges as a pro bono movement in Italy.

1. **Attendees:** 31 (see attached list).

2. **Clearinghouses/NGOs' presentations:**

- Carmen Pombo of Fundaciòn Fernando Pombo (see attached power point presentation) provided us with an overview of her clearinghouse, as well as of the other Spanish clearinghouses' main activities from the outset (right before the PILnet's EU Pro Bono Forum held in Madrid in 2012) to date. She also gave us details about her personal contribution to pro bono (through, for instance, the participation to the PILNet's Pro Bono Council and IBA Pro Bono Committee), and the way they select the pro bono cases that they then decide to handle (mainly public interest law cases). We also discussed the way in-house counsels participate in Spain to pro bono programs, and the interaction with legal clinics/universities and local Bar Councils. In this respect, following the RT, Carmen sent me the link to one of the programs Fundaciòn Fernando Pombo did with Barcelona Bar Council, which had as object NGO's main legal responsibilities: <http://www.fundacionpombo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Programa.pdf>. Finally, upon Carmen's suggestion, I would like to draw your attention on a comprehensive report prepared jointly by PILnet and DLA Piper, called "The growth of Pro Bono in Europe", which can be downloaded from PILnet's web-site;
- Peppe Monetti of Casa della Carità introduced us to his NGO, which is active in Milan by initiative of Cardinal Martini and Don Colmegna. They currently host about 150 people (both Italian and foreign) who sleep in the premises, and assist them in anything they need, without having to go through the social security system. The NGO is also home to a "Centro studi sulla sofferenza urbana" and "Accademia della carità", whose task is to think and develop new intervention strategies in the above fields. They need help from law firms/lawyers in many areas of the law, including but not limited to migration law, asylum seekers' related issues, relationship with the latter's countries of origin, family law, criminal law, administrative law;
- Antonella Napolitano of CILD briefly updated the RT on the most recent initiatives of the coalition (which now counts 34 participating associations active in the field of civil rights). Among those initiatives, we discussed over the intended creation of a team of "border lawyers" (avvocati di frontiera) who will provide first-aid assistance to migrants (and refugees) in critical places such as Ventimiglia, Como, and Sicily. Also, they have been focusing more on strategic litigation (with the help of Open Society), and they plan to work on one or two pilot cases in 2017, linking together law firms/lawyers, NGOs and coalition's partners. To

this end, we are currently working on how to enhance communication and coordination amongst NGOs and clearinghouses, as well as amongst the latter and law firms/lawyers;

- Simone Maria Totaro, President of ELSA Italy, briefly introduced to the RT one of their recent initiative aimed at involving more young lawyers in pro bono matters.

**3. Updates on the recent activities of the Italian clearinghouses:**

- Antonella Napolitano of CILD summarised the developments of their clearinghouse (whose main contact is now Corallina Lopez Curzi). Also, we continue to receive an extremely good feedback from both clearinghouses (i.e., CILD and CSVnet) about the reactivity of our mailing list's members to their request of pro bono assistance, and the quality of work provided.

**4. Actions:**

- for those of you who have not yet replied to Gyöngyvér's request, please update our page on PILnet's web-site by providing to her either the profile of your organisation/law firm or a link to the latter's web-site;
- please circulate your thoughts on the topics of major interest to your organisation/law firm, as we are in the process of organizing the first cycle of Pro Bono Seminar;

**5. Next RT:**

- Wednesday, 22nd March 2017, at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Rome - Via della Croce Rossa, 1/b, Rome. Save the date!

Kind regards,

Giovanni