

Note from the



Held in Rome on March 1, 2023, from 1 to 4 pm,  
at Legance and in streaming

## 1. Agenda:

<b>INTRODUCTORY GREETINGS</b>
Pro Bono Italia – <i>Giovanni Carotenuto</i>
Legance – <i>Cecilia Carrara</i>
<b>INTRODUCING NEW NONPROFITS TO OUR NETWORK</b>
Still I Rise ApS – <i>Giovanni Volpe (General Counsel)</i>
Rise Against Hunger – <i>Roberta Baldazzi (Country Manager)</i>
<b>ROUND TABLE: "LEGAL PRO BONO FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF IN-HOUSE LAWYERS"</b>
Italian Association of Corporate Lawyers (AIGI) – <i>Avv. Raimondo Rinaldi (President Emeritus, member of the General Council)</i>
AstraZeneca – <i>Avv. Carmelo Perrone (Global Sustainability – Compliance Director)</i>
ENEL Group – <i>Enrico Corduas (Legal and Corporate Affairs)</i>
Legance – <i>Cecilia Carrara (moderator)</i>
<b>UPDATES ON ONGOING PROJECTS AND CONCLUSIONS</b>
<b>ANTI-CORRUPTION AND THE THIRD SECTOR – (GREETINGS, KEYNOTE SPEECH AND DEBATE)</b>
<i>2:30 pm – GREETINGS</i>
<i>Giovanni CAROTENUTO, President, Pro Bono Italia</i>
<i>Federico ANGHELÉ, Director, The Good Lobby</i>
<i>Ore 14:45 – KEYNOTE SPEECH</i>
<i>Laura VALLI, Councillor, National Anti-Corruption Authority</i>
<i>15:00 – DEBATE</i>
<i>Laura CAPOLONGO, Programme &amp; Engagement Manager, UN Global Compact Network Italy</i>

*Niccolò BERTOLINI CLERICI, Partner, Legance*

*Giovanni COLOMBO, Executive Director, Transparency International Italy*

*Luciano MODICA, Director, Banca Etica*

*Fabrizio SPADA, Head of Institutional Relations, European Parliament in Italy*

*Marcella VULCANO, President, Advisor*

## CONCLUSIONS

### 2. Participants: 125 in presence and remote

### 3. Introductory greetings

### 4. Presentation of NGOs

Roberta Baldazzi (Rise Against Hunger) begins the presentation with a brief historical excursus of the organization and explains its objectives, such as those of the fight against hunger and poverty. Hence, the birth of initiatives such as those of producing meals for the achievement of the goal of 'zero hunger'. Especially after the pandemic, other initiatives have also opened up, such as those of the distribution of food kits to families, and partnerships with other associations for debt renegotiation or job searching. Roberta explains how the motto "everything starts with a meal" is important not only for nutrition and social protection of vulnerable groups but also for education and empowerment.

Afterwards, Giovanni Volpe (Still I Rise ApS) talks about the birth of the association in 2018 in order to bring education and protect refugee children. The main pillars are those of transparency, efficiency and independence; in fact, the organization is not financed by governments, supranational bodies or multinationals. There are 2 operating models: the emergency school and the international school. The first, in isolated contexts such as those of Congo and Kenya, allows de-schooled children to re-integrate into the formal school system; while the second, is an ambitious project in Nairobi, first in the world, offering the International Baccalaureate for free. Holistic approach of the child: education, meals and health coverage.

The President takes this opportunity to recall how the first steps to become part of the network are to subscribe to the mailing list, participate in events and send requests for legal assistance on the platform.

### 5. Roundtable

The round table moderated by avv. Cecilia Carrara, opens with her speech underlining the commitment of Legance, since its foundation 15 years ago, in favor of the principles of social impact (access to justice, gender equality and the environment). This has always helped to embrace a search for sustainability that takes the form of developing partnerships with non-profits and clients. And speaking of companies, a dialogue has recently started to make resources and expertise available for pro bono purposes.

Avv. Rinaldi, after a brief introduction on AIGI and on the heart/brain combination used

by the lawyer in carrying out his role according to a phrase by Calamandrei, explains that the function of the in-house counsel is to give assistance in judicial and legal matters, and distinguishes the differences of these figures with that of lawyers enrolled in the Register, thus highlighting the limitations of in-house counsel in providing assistance outside companies. The lucky meeting between avv. Carrara and the friends of Pro Bono Italia offers a way to think about the regulatory hurdle – to provide hours for legal opinions with the cousins of the free forum. The will is there but we need to work on a solution to approach and collaborate on how to identify these resources and free up energy to make a difference.

The intervention of Carmelo Perrone (Astrazeneca) – Astrazeneca lawyer and Compliance Officer responsible for sustainability – is a direct account of an event with Rise against Hunger for the packaging of meals for children in difficulty. An opportunity not only to do good but also to increase team cohesion and the importance given to ESG issues.

Remaining on topic, Enrico Corduas explains the involvement of ENEL and adds that, despite the limit of the professional perimeter, it is important how the Legal function can fall into this world, giving support to the cousins of the free forum as a first step. This must lead the company to increase its presence and human skills: "to discover the Americas, ships must be ready". Avv. Rinaldi also adds that we must not forget those who have recently stopped working and are retired. The roundtable then closes with the commitment to set up a permanent working group to work on this with non-profits.

## **6. Updates**

See conclusions.

## **7. Seminar – Greetings, Keynote Speech and Debate**

The event opens with the greetings of the three organizations that collaborated in the realization of the seminar. The emphasis is on the following themes: the combination of civil society / corruption and the fundamental role in prevention by the third sector (Anghelè); the importance of debate and of giving useful tools to those who make policies in order to promote a culture of transparency (Compagnucci); the value linked to these types of events in collaboration with established partners such as The Good Lobby and I-com, as an example of complementary worlds (Carotenuto).

The *keynote speaker*, Laura Valli, begins by asking what collaboration between institutions and civil society means from an anti-corruption point of view, but also how this collaboration works and what could be done to improve it. The UN Convention already recognized its importance and raised questions of what measures would help to participate in the fight (better transparency, promotion of access to information, etc.). But fundamentally, there is total discretion on the part of governments in inviting civil society into *peer review* processes and therefore from a practical point of view it is still a struggle to sit at the table. Problems related to respect, communication and listening persist, as also witnessed through direct experiences within international organizations, but there has been a growth of recognition and listening thanks to the creation of networks, consultations and working tables. Valli cites a recent table on Whistleblowing as a positive example of this approach but also the problems of transposition of the last directive due

to a lack of inclusion of civil society.

The floor then passes to each of the other panelists of which we mention a selection of main themes: involvement of the European institutions, especially in the regulation of lobbying activities to promote transparency (Spada); importance of coordination of collective responsibility and transparency in reporting (Capolongo); synergistic actions to find solutions and the role of the third sector as a glue (Colombo); differences in various countries of the regulatory environment in the treatment of whistleblowers (Bertolini Clerici); impact of finance on the behaviour and socio-economic development of the community, especially in view of the evolution of behaviour in mafia structures (Modica); inclusion of the third sector in the confiscation of assets stolen from organized crime (Vulcano).

Finally, a question on how to achieve a balance between the fight against corruption and the right of the reported subjects, whose answer seems to lie in the fact that the reported could sue for defamation (or other) in case of innocence. The seminar then closes with Colombo's proposal for a possible 17th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) inspired by the fight against corruption as a cross-cutting element.

## **8. Conclusions**

The President thanks the participants and recalls the two days of 28/29 March in Milan on the Rule of Law: a lecture + evening event at Bocconi, followed the next day by a roundtable at Clifford Chance.