



RACMED

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del 07/08/2014



Cooperazione Italiana
allo Sviluppo
Ministero degli Affari Esteri



31st July 2014

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio
President
MED – RAC Mediterranean Fishery
Committee
Via Nazionale 243
00184 Roma – Italy

Dear President,

The Italian Presidency of the European Union is for our country a tremendous opportunity to relaunch the European agenda. It provides the chance to kick off a debate on the main pillars of the EU: economy, integration, development, solidarity.

Institutions and donors of the sector have a long-standing commitment to underpin the need to strengthen the efforts for achieving the post 2015 millennium development goals through new job opportunities, promotion of decent work, gender equality and women empowerment, sustainable development.

In this spirit, the General Direction for Cooperation to Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported in its 2014-2016 Guidelines the strategic importance of the role played by cooperatives in the international development processes. And this endorses the main lines issued by the European Commission last May to fight against poverty, to promote economic and social integration and sustainable development. In this context, a key role may and has to be played by the private sector and, mainly by cooperatives which may strengthen the economic fabric of developing countries and create opportunities for the European businesses which wish to make sustainable investments in these countries.

In this institutional framework, the **Alliance of the Italian Co-operatives** jointly with the **CIHEAM Bari** and in collaboration with the **General Direction for Cooperation to Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has designed thematic events by which it wants to contribute to the debate on the role of the private sector in the promotion of sustainable

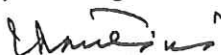
development. The aim of this debate proposal is to draw up a policy paper that shall be submitted to the European Institutions.

Therefore, we are pleased to inform you that on October 18, 2014, CIHEAM Bari will convene the conference titled "*From the seed to food: cooperative system and sustainable agriculture*"; we would be honored to report your name as invited speaker in the official programme.

In order to organize your participation and to better coordinate your speech with that of other authoritative institutional guests, we would be grateful if you could confirm your availability by September 5th. Please send us an address for further Communication.

Yours faithfully.

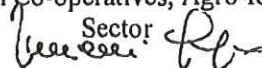
Giampaolo Cantini,
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Directorate General for
Development Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy



Cosimo Lacirignola,
Secretary General of CIHEAM
and Director of CIHEAM Bari



Giorgio Mercuri
President of the Alliance of the
Italian Co-operatives, Agro-food
Sector



Annex:

- Draft programme Bari conference

FROM SEED TO FOOD: Cooperation, Sustainable agriculture and Food security

CIHEAM Bari, Lecture Hall
Valenzano (BA), Italy
October 18, 2014

9.00 - 9.30 - Welcome

Chairman: Cosimo Lacirignola - Secretary General of CIHEAM and Director of CIHEAM Bari

- o **Nichi Vendola** – President, Apulia Regional Authority
- o **Marco Pagano** – President, Co-operative Alliance of Apulia Region
- o Representative - Ministry of Agriculture, Italy
- o **Paolo De Castro** – Member of the EU Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- o **Lapo Pistelli** - Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

9.30 - 11:00 - Key note speakers

Chairman: Cosimo Lacirignola

- o **Graziano Da Silva** -Director General, FAO
- o **Kanayo F. Nwanze** – President, IFAD
- o **Fernando Frutuoso De Melo** - Director General, Development and Cooperation- EuropeAid, EC
- o **Giuseppe Sala** - Commissioner of the Italian Government for Expo 2015 Milano
- o **Giorgio Mercuri** - President of the Alliance of the Italian Co-operatives, Agro-food Sector

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13.15 - Presentations and plenary discussion

Chairman: Giampaolo Cantini - Minister Plenipotentiary, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

1. **Adel El-Beltagy** - Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt and President of CIHEAM
2. **Akina Adesina** - Minister of Agriculture, Nigeria
3. **Luigi Nicolais** - President National Council of Research, Italy
4. **Bernard Url** - Executive Director, European Food Safety Agency, Parma, Italy
5. **Mouin Hamzé** - Secretary General of CNRS Lebanon and Representative of local point of Feeding Knowledge project
6. **Paolo Chesani** – Italian NGOs network (AOI, Link 2007, CINI)
7. **Giampaolo Buonfiglio** – President Med-RAC, Mediterranean Fishery Committee
8. **Escipion Oliveira** – Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Export Agency
9. **Claudio Pennucci** – Conserve Italia Cooperative Manager

13.15 – Award ceremony - Technical Assistance Centre for the ACP Countries

13.30 – Conclusions

Giampaolo Cantini - Minister Plenipotentiary, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

Will attend the event:

- *Representatives of 28 EU Member States for the EDF program*
- *Representatives of the African Caribbean Pacific Countries*
- *Local points of 9 Mediterranean Countries participating in the program EXPO-Feeding Knowledge*

Simultaneous translation English / Italian will be provided