

60 years of Europe and 10 years of ERC: "research as support to European Union's unification - towards an effective scientific diplomacy"

April 7, 2017 – CNR – P.le Aldo Moro 7 – Rome

The intent to simultaneously celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the 10 years of ERC is based on the belief that if on one hand research has acquired a major role in the creation of a united Europe, on the other hand, the European Union allowed in the last 60 years the development of excellent research branded "Europe"

In this framework of cooperation, the last 60 years of research, however, can be divided into two specific time segments, the scientific work of the first 50 years after the Treaties of Rome (1957-2007) a scientifically identifiable time span typified by the so called "**disruptive innovation**", and the last 10 (2007-2017), more related to activities that can be defined of "**disruptive application**" tied to an incremental approach of the innovations developed in the last 50 years.

It must be remembered, however, that even though the "last ten years" have taken advantage of the great discoveries of the past, they also laid the foundation for the great discoveries of the future, according to the cyclical nature featuring also scientific research. The role that Europe has assigned to the **European Research Council**, has the objective to support and fund basic research of excellence with the aim of building the foundation for the "**disruptive innovation**" of the future.

The challenges to be faced with the support of Research and Innovation have acquired a global dimension such that no Member State on its own is in a position to deal with. It follows that the ability to produce innovation and pursue excellence, has to be inevitably moved from the national context to that of EU.

The idea to build the event on **4 topics: Ideas, Mobility, Wellbeing, Innovation**, which are not related to specific research topics, was generated by the will to address cross-curricular issues that well match with the development of the concept of European ideal and that represent research areas in general.

Ideas - ideas as the engine of scientific excellence that supports the growth of Europe in terms of economy and welfare of the citizens. Ideas as seeds of knowledge, and as a ground for research and its applications.

Mobility - intended both as freedom of movement and as circulation of knowledge, people, products, culture. Scientific advancement linked to researchers mobility allows to highlight the research's unique features which, with Erasmus program, Marie Curie actions and ERC, have indeed allowed the removal of cultural barriers and the beginning of scientific relations even before the governmental ones.

Wellbeing - A science in support of a long, happy and healthy life. Another interdisciplinary scientific area which records the most impacting discoveries of the past 60 years, but whose path is still long. Only by addressing this challenge in a coordinated manner at European level will enable to offer sustainable solutions to reduce social costs for health, which absorb most part of the national GDP.

Innovation - Innovation to support the development of a European industrial base through the promotion of partnerships between stakeholders that more and more go beyond national boundaries. Innovation is the natural result of the research since it represents its production capacity and the country's engine for growth. A united Europe can do much in this direction thanks to a dragging effect to the top by the most virtuous countries, also promoting a society more oriented to investment and innovation.

Session 1: **60 years from Treaties of Rome**

09.00 - 10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 - 10.10 Welcome: **Massimo Inguscio**, *President of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)*

10.10 - 10.50 Keynote speech:

Paolo Gentiloni, *Italian Prime Minister (tbc)*

Antonio Tajani, *President of the European Parliament*

Research as a cohesive force

Moderator: **Gabriele Beccaria**, scientific reporter "*La Stampa*"

11.00 - 11.20 **Jean Pierre Bourguignon**, *President of the European Research Council (ERC)*

Thematic Area: Ideas

11.20 - 11.40 **Luciano Maiani**, *Professor emeritus at Sapienza University of Rome, former Director-General of CERN*

Thematic Area: Mobility

11.40 - 12.00 **Katrin Amunts**, *Director of the Human Brain Project*

Thematic Area: Wellbeing

12.00 - 12.20 **Paolo Barberis**, *co-founder NANA BIANCA*

Thematic Area: Innovation

12.20 - 12.35 Closing remarks: **Patrizia Toia**, *Vice-Chair ITRE commission, European Parliament*

12.35 - 12.55 Questions & Answers

12.50 - 13.50 Lunch break

Session 2: **Celebration of the 10th anniversary of ERC actions in order to strengthen excellence in Europe**

Moderator: **Alessandro Damiani**, *President of the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE)*

14.15 - 14.30 **Valeria Fedeli**, *Italian Minister of Education, University and Research (MIUR)*

14.30 - 14.45 **Jean Pierre Bourguignon**, *President of the European Research Council (ERC)*

14.45 - 15.00 **Patrizia Toia**, *Vice-Chair ITRE Committee, European Parliament*

15.00 - 15.20 **Roberta Sessoli**, *Grant ERC University of Florence*; **Francesca Pasinelli**, *General Manager of Telethon*

15.20 - 16.50 Keynote roundtable:

Massimo Inguscio, *President of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)*; **Fernando Ferroni**, *President of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN)*; **Rosario Rizzuto**, *Rector of the University of Padua*; **Gianmario Verona**, *Rector of Bocconi University*; **Eugenio Gaudio**, *Rector of Sapienza University of Rome*; **Paolo Collini**, *Rector of the University of Trento*

16.50 - 17.10 Questions & Answers

17.10 - 17.20 Closing remarks: **Massimo Inguscio**, *President of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)*