



Milan, 20 April 2006

**Today at Palazzo Mezzanotte – seat of the Italian stock exchange – take-off**

**TRENTO ECONOMICS FESTIVAL:**

**FOUR DAYS FOR LEARNING SOMETHING WHILE HAVING FUN**

**The programme for the initiative, which will take place from 1 to 4 June , was presented to the press**

In just over a month the first Economics Festival will open in Trento. Today at Palazzo Mezzanotte – the seat of the Italian stock exchange – the programme for the initiative, with the title *Wealth and Poverty*, was presented to the press.

The Festival, which is unprecedented in Italy, will take place from 1 to 4 June and will bring together economists, sociologists, town-planners, jurists, businessmen, politicians and journalists. It is not a conference but a genuine economics fair, hosted by a city, Trento, which is facing the challenge with enthusiasm.

The press conference was attended by Lorenzo Dellai, President of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Alberto Pacher, Mayor of Trento and Davide Bassi, Chancellor of Trento University for the promoting committee, and by Innocenzo Cipolletta, Chairman of the Sole 24 Ore newspaper and Giuseppe Laterza, publisher, for the organising committee, along with the scientific co-ordinator for the Festival, Tito Boeri.

“Trentino and the partners” – as President Dellai said today – “believe strongly in this initiative, which will be an opportunity to discuss economics in a lively and innovative way. We think it is important to offer this opportunity to Trento, a unique area, which believes strongly in research, innovation and the network of international relations as tools for development. The scope of the Economics Festival is to seek to construct a process providing renewed faith and hope in the future”.

Innocenzo Cipolletta then talked about ‘economics as a logical and mental tool for resolving problems. “Starting from this assumption” – he said – “the natural organisers of the Festival had to be Il Sole 24 ore and the Laterza publishing house: the first, providing economic information, has always offered its readers a way of rationally considering major issues; the second, for more than a century, has been working in the field of research and civil commitment. The public at the Economics Festival” – continued the Chairman of the Sole 24 Ore – “will find answers to many questions, from major issues to daily problems such as, for example, finding a job, investing savings and choosing one school rather than another. In short, four days dedicated to learning something, while also having fun”.

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Tito Boeri, Professor at the Bocconi University, then illustrated the programme, whose intention – he underlined – is not to give recipes for resolving major economic questions but to transmit an effective method for forming an opinion by listening to different and often opposing ideas: “The Economics Festival” – he said – “will first of all deal with investigation of the dynamics of inequality and how these dynamics have changed over the years in the various countries and will then illustrate the range of solutions which can reduce this inequality. On this subject the greatest experts in economics, sociology, town-planning and politics (including Atkinson, Dahrendorf, Fan Gang, Leyard, Alesina, Faini, Padoa-Schioppa, Secchi and Gallino) will put forwards their ideas and will draw up future scenarios. What will count is not so much the solutions as the process which we will follow together”.

The Mayor, Alberto Pacher underlined how events never take place by chance in a given city, such as the city of the historic council, a city which for more than a decade has been characterised by its ability to look to the future and construct new opportunities for growth: an area which has developed from being fundamentally based on agriculture, becoming a highly appreciated tourist destination and also constructing a future from the point of view of town-planning, with major projects by architects such as Renzo Piano, Mario Botta and Vittorio Gregotti”.

Finally, Davide Bassi, Chancellor of Trento University, highlighted the positive anomaly of Trento University, which closely approaches European standards in terms of quality.

Thus the Festival will be **accessible to all**: economics will be explained in comprehensible terms also in relation to aspects of daily life. **Varied and problematical**: there will be room for those expressing all opinions and ideas, from free traders to critics of globalisation. **Multidisciplinary**: economists will participate alongside social scientists, town-planners and historians. **International**: of 40 speakers, a quarter will come from abroad. **Unpredictable**: not just famous names but also people who will make new and original ideas known to the public through the Festival.

The schedule will be marked by many different initiatives. The day will start early in the morning with the *Press review*, followed by the appointment with *Key Words* (when an expert will explain what terms like development, poverty and market mean). At noon there will be a *Forum* which will consider issues relating to national and international economics. Lunch break. In the afternoon at 14.30 there will be *Daily Life* (here we will try to understand the economic dynamics behind situations and objects which we deal with every day, from football to the employment market, from mobile phones to savings. The programme will continue with *Dialogues* and *Meetings with Authors*, to arrive at the daily appointment (*Visions*) which on Thursday 1 June will see the economist Fan Gang, Director of the National Economic Research Institute in Peking as protagonist. On Friday 2 June there will be Anthony Atkinson, one of the most important experts on the distribution of wealth. On Saturday 3 June there will be Zygmunt Bauman, sociologist of “liquid” modernity, while on Sunday 4 June Ralf Dahrendorf, one of the most authoritative political scientists at world level, will be the guest speaker.

At 20.30 *Witnesses of Time* (guests include Federico Rampini, Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa and Father Renato Kizito Sesana) will take stock of the situation in relation to the major issues, not only economical, of our times, while for those who never tire there will be cinema, entertainment and shows until late at night (guests include Moni Ovadia and Enrico Bertolino).

## **FESTIVALdell'ECONOMIAdiTRENTO**

In addition to these regular appointments there will be laboratories for children, exhibitions and markets, all this strolling through the streets of Trento, which will be part of an extensive town fête where old and young alike, families and experts, politicians and citizens will be able to listen to and participate in the great story of economics.

It is possible to obtain detailed information both on the programme and on opportunities for best enjoying the four days in Trento at the web site [www.festivaleconomia.it](http://www.festivaleconomia.it).

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