



Trento, 23 May 2006

**On Thursday 1 June the inauguration at Buonconsiglio Castle  
FESTIVAL OF ECONOMICS – TRENTO - :“WEALTH AND POVERTY” , THE  
MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FAIR IS READY TO GO**

**Four days with economists, social scientists, town-planners, historians, demographers and politicians, but also artists, cartoonists and actors**

(f.s.) - Trento is about to become the capital of economics. From 1 to 4 June, in the city of the historic council the English economist Anthony Atkinson, the Chinese economist Fan Gang, the German expert in political affairs Ralf Dahrendorf, the sociologist of Polish origin Zygmunt Bauman and the Combonian missionary Renato Sesana, who has been known as Father Kizito since he lived in Africa, will discuss issues and exchange opinions with the public. On 2 June, Republic Day, the programme also sees the participation of recently nominated ministers Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa, Paolo De Castro and Linda Lanzillotta.

Enrico Letta, undersecretary to the council of ministers' office, will speak about "the market and regulations" at the "forum" on 3 June. However, the issue of "Wealth and Poverty" will also be discussed with scholars such as Alberto Alesina, an Italian who has moved to Harvard, the sociologist Luciano Gallino, the town-planner Bernardo Secchi, the demographer Massimo Livi Bacci, the English economist Richard Layard, who will talk about his studies on happiness, and the Dutchman Jan van Ours, who will talk about children's literature, along with important figures in Italian journalism. The Festival has been promoted by the Autonomous Province of Trento, the commune of Trento and the University of Trento and is organised by the Laterza publishing house and the Sole-24 Ore newspaper. The scientific co-ordinator of the Festival is Tito Boeri, Lecturer in Labour Economics at the Bocconi University in Milan. The inauguration ceremony will take place at 10.30 on Thursday 1 June at Buonconsiglio Castle, the pre-eminent symbol of Trento.

In Trento, a city at the centre of attention as regards innovation and research, almost everything is ready for this major event dedicated to economics in the first four days of June. The underlying theme for this first festival, which is unprecedented in Italy, will be "Wealth and Poverty", an issue which is at the centre of public debate.

Great names in the field of economics, sociology, demography and town-planning will come together – in the city which hosted the ecumenical council, then attended by the most powerful figures in the known world – to discuss development and underdevelopment the creation and distribution of wealth, efficiency and fairness. There will be international scholars who, thanks to their professional or teaching experience, are capable of communicating their research to a wider public. These will include **Alberto Alesina**, an Italian who has moved to Harvard, who will explain to us, from the economic, historic, ideological and legal point of view, why there is such a big difference in redistribution policy between the United States and Europe. There will be the English economist **Anthony Atkinson**, an expert on disparity in the redistribution of wealth; the Chinese scholar **Fan Gang**, who will talk about how and why the biggest country in the world is growing at such fast rate; the German expert on political affairs **Ralf Dahrendorf**, a great liberal theorist and expert on Europe; the post-modern theorist and sociologist **Zygmunt Bauman**; the Indian **Kausick Basu** from Cornell University, who has studied the phenomenon of child labour in developing countries in depth; **Stephen Nickell**, who will speak about the *working poor*, those categories of workers who do not succeed in rising above the poverty line. There will also be the sociologist **Luciano Gallino**, the town-planner **Bernardo Secchi**, the demographer **Massimo Livi Bacci**, **Richard Layard**, who will talk about his studies on happiness and the Dutchman **Jan van Ours**, who will talk about how children grow up differently according to what they read and the approach to television. **Padre Kizito**, a Combonian missionary whose real name is Renato Sesana, will be present in Trento on Saturday 3 June. As part of “Witnesses of Time” he will present his experience in the African continent, where he has established three family centres. It was his commitment in favour of the poor which led to him being given the name of the first African Christian martyr.

However In Trento on 2 June, Republic Day, as we have mentioned, there will also be the newly appointed Minister of Economics, **Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa**, who will be a speaker within the context of “Witnesses of Time” presented by Ferruccio De Bortoli, at the meeting entitled “Economics and politics in Europe: the experience of a professional economist”. **Paolo De Castro**, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, will speak on agriculture on the same day. The participation of the Minister for Regional Affairs, **Linda Lanzillotta** is also programmed for 2 June at the “Forum” co-ordinated by Federico Rampini on the subject “Innovation as a social product”. At noon on Saturday 3 June the undersecretary to the Council of Ministers’ office, **Enrico Letta**, will discuss “The Market and Regulations” with **Francesco Greco**, **Stefano Micossi**, **Marco Onado**, **Savino Pezzotta** and **Bruno Tabacci**.

The exchange of opinions which will take place on the issue of the first festival, “Wealth and Poverty”, will allow everyone to form an opinion on questions which we often ask ourselves and which are particularly topical.

It will be a Festival which will not fail to astound, thanks to the diversity of ideas and interpretations, the different and sometimes conflicting points of view and the commitment to making the issues accessible to all.

## **FESTIVALdell'ECONOMIAdiTRENTO**

It will be unpredictable, capable of making us smile and reflect on the greater and lesser economic issues which concern us all.

For the full programme please consult the web site [www.festivaleconomia.it](http://www.festivaleconomia.it)