



WORLD REGIONS FORUM

Milan - November 19, 20, 21, 2009

Forum Mondiale delle Regioni

THE WORLD REGIONS FORUM IN MILAN FROM 19 TO 21 NOVEMBER

the global-level meeting of the most dynamic and economically important
regions

Milan, 9 November 2009. The inaugural edition of the WORLD REGIONS FORUM, the meeting of the most dynamic and economically important regions on a global level, will be held at Palazzo Mezzanotte in Milan from the evening of Thursday 19 to 1.00 pm on Saturday 21 November 2009. Besides Lombardy, 14 delegations will be taking part, from:

Europe: Bavaria, Ile-de-France, Madrid Region, Saint Petersburg

The Americas: California, Illinois (USA), Nuevo Leon (Mexico), San Paolo (Brazil), Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Africa: Gauteng (South Africa)

Asia: Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Shanghai (China), Singapore

Australia: New South Wales

Organised and promoted by the Lombardy Regional Authorities together with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the WORLD REGIONS FORUM is a result of the awareness that global competition increasingly sees regional governments as main players. The role of their economies appears to be a key factor in response to the economic financial crisis and for the drawing up of new governance rules and cooperation between leading countries.

The Forum's objectives are:

- political: to re-establish in a new global vision the identity of leading regional economies and highlight support for national governments
- institutional: to develop an efficient network between "guide" regional economies in order to help resolve the global crisis and create opportunities also for less developed countries. To identify and implement best practices that serve as local and national development models.

The regions invited had to meet the following criteria factors:

- *industrial system (number of patents per population and per GDP, *High Tech*, *ICT* and *Biotech* patents)
- *number of leading R&D companies, broadband penetration);
- *financial resources for innovation (GDP expenditure on R&D and added value, private sector expenditure on R&D, number and intensity of venture capital investments);
- *scientific system (number of publications/year, quality of scientific research and international approach by regional scientific research systems, university/enterprise collaboration, top university rankings);
- *human resources for innovation (graduate employment, human resources in the scientific-engineering sector, employees in R&D, employees in the high-tech and knowledge intensive service sectors)

Delegations present at the WORLD REGIONS FORUM will debate three big issues in dedicated sessions:

- the environment and energy
- human capital
- health and welfare

Conditions will be identified for systematic development of one network for each area offering high levels of competitiveness able to encourage circulation of know-how, best practice and patents. The objective is to generate the following kinds of networks:

- research and innovation, based on an agreement that facilitates exchange of students and researchers between universities, research centres and companies;
- sustainable development focused on mobility, urban models, quality of the air, waste management, quality and use of water;
- organisation- and administration-oriented health care, medical and pharmacological research, training for medical and paramedical personnel, ICT applications, public-private partnerships.

The Forum will be divided into two political plenary sessions (inaugural and closing) and three themed sessions for technical analysis.

At the end of the meeting the heads of delegation will sign a common document (final declaration) that identifies priority questions for sustaining development of areas in the world with the greatest difficulties. This document will act as a guideline tool for work carried out by these areas in the year to come, also in view of the bilateral encounters held during 2010 until the next appointment.

For further information:

SEC Public and Institutional Relations

Mario Cedone Tel. 02/624.999.43 - Mob. 339/37.02.047

Federico Forcieri Tel. 02/624.999.55 – Mob. 335/18.62.415

Gabriele Bertipaglia Tel. 02/624.999.27 – Mob 335/72.03.720

Spokesperson for President Formigoni

Giovanni Cattaneo Tel. 02/6765.4141

Lombardia Notizie – Lombardy Regional Authorities press agency

Maurizio Vitali Tel. 02/6765.5771