



## WORLD REGIONS FORUM

Milan - November 19, 20, 21, 2009

Forum Mondiale delle Regioni

### SCHWARZENEGGER JOINS FORMIGONI FOR THE WORLD REGIONS G15 PACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN CAPITAL, RESEARCH AND HEALTH

**Milan, 18 November 2009.** Create a network between the world's richest, most advanced and innovative Regions, making a permanent negotiation and exchange table for three strategic areas: human capital and research (with exchange of teachers, students and researchers); health (research centres, staff training and telemedicine); the environment and sustainability (with the creation of an international agency via web connecting the facilities that manage environmental issues for different entities).

These are the proposals that the President of the Region of Lombardy, Roberto Formigoni, presented today, receiving instant and strong support, to Arnold Schwarzenegger - Governor of California - who was visiting Palazzo Pirelli for the World Regions Forum, defined as the Regions G15 and opening tomorrow in Milan. Formigoni and Schwarzenegger had already met a month and a half before in Los Angeles at the Governors' Global Climate Change Summit.

The "pact" between Formigoni and Schwarzenegger will be brought to the attention of the 15 sub-national governments participating in the meeting organised by the Lombardy Regional Authority, which will see delegations from all over the world (Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia) working together for three days.

"The world is changing", explained Formigoni during the press conference held together with Governor Schwarzenegger. "After the recession, the Regions will be taking on a more important role. That is why we give great importance to the work of the World Regions Forum, where in addition to reflecting on the political role of sub-national governments, concrete projects will be discussed, such as those I have presented to Governor Schwarzenegger, who has in turn given his full agreement and support. I am also pleased that he has accepted my proposal to make the Forum a permanent event, with a meeting every two years".

"California", added Formigoni, "is one of the leading motors of economy and innovation not only in the United States but in the whole world, particularly in terms of the environment and sustainability, issues it has been working on for some time. During the

Forum we will also be discussing local and global pollution and the green economy, areas in which the Regions can boast expertise, and can act as a stimulus to national Governments and the European Union to put stronger, more consistent policies into action".

Arnold Schwarzenegger, after he congratulated Formigoni for the work done and expressed his regret at not being able to personally take part in the three days of the World Regions Forum – which he defined as "an extraordinary, crucial meeting" -, underlined the role of the sub-national governments "who are more ahead than national governments on many issues" and can act as a hotbed and a stimulus for more innovative policies.

In this regard, he cited environmental policies as a case in point, with California being the first American state to adopt a law for the reduction of greenhouse gases by 25%, setting itself more realistic goals compared to the decisions taken in Washington (-80% by 2050). Schwarzenegger also mentioned policies regarding transport, the diffusion of solar panels and energy efficiency in buildings. According to the Governor of California, these policies must be regarded as "economic opportunities for the future".

On the other hand, Schwarzenegger also pointed out that "all major movements began at a grass roots level" such as American independence, the battle for civil rights or the actions of great figures like Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

In response to a question on the issue of health, Schwarzenegger said he would like to know more about the excellent services offered by the region of Lombardy. (Ln)

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