

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS OF MEDITERRANEAN CITIES “Mediterranean frontier of civilisation”

Florence, February 24-27, 2022

DRAFT PROGRAMME

100 Mayors and more that 200 delegates from Mediterranean countries gathering together in Florence.

The goal of the conference is to draw new attention to the Mediterranean area through the dialogue between its main cities, fostering and promoting actions to support cooperation and peace. Historically, the crossroad of Eastern and Western civilisations, of the North and the South of the world, the Mediterranean can play again the role of cultural bridge it has played in previous decisive historical junctures, this time thanks to the dialogue between its cities.

The conference will coincide with the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) annual event “Mediterranean frontier of peace” which, after the first edition in Bari in 2020, will continue the discussion between bishops of all Mediterranean Churches.

DAY I - Thursday, February 24 - 2022

Sala della Musica, San Firenze.

Welcome dinner .

h. 19.00- 19.30: guests arrival and registration.

h.19.30 - 19. 45: welcome and greetings.

- Dario Nardella, *Mayor of Florence*
- Eugenio Giani, *President of Tuscany Region.*
- Valerio Valenti, *Prefect of Florence*

DAY II - Friday, February 25 - 2022

Hall of the Five Hundred, Palazzo Vecchio

h. 8.15: delegations arrival and registration.

h. 8.55 - h.9.00: Official opening, national anthem.

h. 9.00 - h.9.30: opening speeches.

h.9.00 - h.9.15: **Dario Nardella**, *Mayor of Florence*

h.9.15-h.9.30: **Luigi Di Maio**, *Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.*

h. 9.30 – 11.30: Session I

Cultural development and cooperation between Mediterranean cities. How to support cultural development projects between cities and countries of the Mediterranean to foster Culture as a vehicle of economic and social growth, hence stability and peaceful coexistence.

h.9.30-h.9.40: keynote speech by **Audrey Azoulay**, Director General of UNESCO **(TBC)**

h.9.40-h.9.50: keynote speech by **Prof. Romano Prodi** - former President of the European Commission **(TBC)**.

h. 9.50 - h.10.00: keynote speech by **Dr. Malala Yousafzai**, Nobel Prize for Peace Laureate 2014. **(TBC)**

h. 10.00 - h.11.30: **“Urban dialogues”**, Mayors' open talk session.

During this session mayors will be invited to discuss the topics addressed by the keynote speakers to debate priorities and share possible solutions.

h. 11.30 – 13.15: Session II

Public Health Security and social protection. In times of pandemic, the main goal to start a dialogue between cities is to grant protection from COVID-19, which hasn't been reached in many Mediterranean areas yet. Vaccine campaigns international perspectives analysis.

h.11.30 - h.11.40: keynote speech by **Zsuzsanna Jakab**, Deputy Director General of the WHO, former Regional Director for Europe of the WHO. **(TBC)**

h.11.40 - h.11.50: keynote speech by **Francesco Rocca**, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and President of the Italian Red Cross. **(TBC)**

h.11.50 -h.12.00: keynote speech by **Arnon Afek**, *Director of the Sheba General Hospital of Ramat Gan, former Director General of the Public Health Ministry of Israel.* **(TBC)**

h. 12.00 - h.13.15: ***“Urban dialogues”***, Mayors' open talk session.

During this session mayors will be invited to discuss the topics addressed by the keynote speakers to debate priorities and share possible solutions.

h. 13.15 - h.14.45: light lunch - Sala della Musica di San Firenze.

h. 15.00 – 17.15: Session III

Mediterranean Sea, water pollution, environment and hydric and energetic resources protection; policies to support a sustainable economic development based on a fair distribution of hydric and energetic resources; technology access for a sustainable energetic transition;

h. 15.00 - h.15.10 : keynote speech by **HRH Charles Prince of Wales. (TBC).**

h.15.10 - h.15.20: keynote speech by **Ibrahim Thiaw** , Executive Secretary of the UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification) **(TBC).**

h.15.20 - h.15.30: keynote speech by **Tareq Abuhamed**, Executive Director, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Israel.**(TBC).**

h. 15.30 - h.17.15: **“Urban dialogues”**, Mayors' open talk session.

During this session mayors will be invited to discuss the topics addressed by the keynote speakers to debate priorities and share possible solutions.

h. 17.15– 19.00: Session VI

Migrations across Mediterranean shores. How cities can help defining new migration policies and cooperate for effective actions on fundamental human rights protection.

h.17.15- h.17.25: keynote speech by **Marco Minniti**, President of MedOr Foundation and former Home Affairs Minister of Italy.

h.17.25 - h.17.35: keynote speech by **Filippo Grandi**, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. **(TBC)**

h.17.35 - 17.45: keynote speech by **Richard Gere**, Humanitarian, actor and producer. **(TBC)**

h. 17.45 - h.19.00: *“Urban dialogues”*; Mayors' open talk session.

During this session mayors will be invited to discuss the topics addressed by the keynote speakers to debate priorities and share possible solutions.

Ore 19.00: EVENT.

Exhibition opening: Amos Gitai - Sala d'Arme di Palazzo Vecchio.

Ore 20.00 Cena - Sala della Musica di San Firenze (?)

DAY III - Saturday, February 26 - 2022

Salone dei Cinquecento di Palazzo Vecchio

h. 09.00 -h. 12. 30: Session I

Joint session for mayors and participants to the Italian Episcopal Conference .

h.9.00 - h. 9.10: introduction by chair **Enzo Bianco**, President of the National Council of ANCI (Italian National Association of Municipalities) and Vice president of CIVEX (Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs of COR - European Committee of the Regions) .

h.09.10 - h.09.20: address speech by **Dario Nardella**, *Mayor of Florence*.

h.09.20 -h. 09.30: address speech by His Em. **Card. Gualtiero Bassetti**, *Metropolitan Archbishop of Perugia-Città della Pieve and President of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)* .

h. 09.30 -h. 12. 30: open session during which mayors and CEI participants will discuss the topics addressed.

h. 12.30 - h.13.00: Press Conference

h.13.00 – light lunch at Sala della Musica, San Firenze.

h. 14.00 - h. 15.30: discussion and approval of the *Florence Declaration* (Hall of the Five Hundreds -Palazzo Vecchio).

h. 17.00 -h. 19.00: Session II

New Auditorium of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

h.17.00 - h.17.30: address speeches by:

- **Ursula Von der Leyen**, *President of the European Commission (TBC)*
- *President of Republic, Italy (TBC)*
- **Ahmed Aboul Gheit**, *Secretary General of the Arab League (TBC).*

h. 17.30 - h.19.00: Round table.

- **Joseph Weiler**, *New York University e Jean Monnet Chaired Professor (TBC)*
- **Giampiero Massolo**, *President of ISPI (TBC)*
- **Randa Slim**, *Director of Conflict Resolution and Track II Dialogues Program, Middle East Institute, USA. (TBC)*
- **Noemi Di Segni**, *President, Union of Italian Jewish Communities. (TBC)*
- 3 Mayors . **(TBC)**
- 1 CEI representative. **(TBC)**

At the end of the conference mayors and bishops will sign a joint declaration on intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.

h.19.00 - h.19.30: signing of the ‘*Florence Declaration*’

h.19.30 - h. 20.30: cocktail.

h.20.30: EVENT

Concert of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino orchestra conducted by James Conlon

DAY IV - Sunday, February 27 - 2022

Palazzo Vecchio.

h. 8.30:

Morning session: meeting at the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Francis in the Hall of the Five Hundred.

Address speeches by:

- Dario Nardella, *Mayor of Florence* .
- His Em. Card. Gualtiero Bassetti, *Metropolitan Archbishop of Perugia-Città della Pieve and President of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI)* .
- Mayor.... *(TBC)*
- Mayor *(TBC)*.
- **The Holy Father, Pope Francis**

h.9.20 - Hall of Leone X:

Meeting between the Holy Father, Pope Francis and the mayors of Mediterranean capital cities.

h. 9.30 - Sala d'Arme:

Meeting between the Holy Father Pope Francis and refugees living in Florence.

h. 10.30:

Mass and Angelus in Santa Croce Square.