

## Low Carbon Intelligent Road Transportation Systems

### Welcome by Minister Giovanni Brauzzi Deputy Head of Mission, Italian Embassy in London

- Good morning, I am Giovanni Brauzzi. I am here on behalf of Ambassador Aragona who is unfortunately unable to come because of other urgent matters.
- We attach the utmost importance to this type of scientific workshops, whose importance cannot be overestimated in today's knowledge society.
- This is even more important in a time of crisis, when innovation is the best beacon of hope in order to *see through* the difficulties of the time.
- At present, there is nothing more challenging and promising than giving serious thoughts on how to reconcile the needs of mobility with the imperatives of a low carbon economy.
- Somebody has already defined this process the third industrial revolution.
- To do more with less is a big challenge and would be a big change but it is not impossible. Yes, we can.
- Italy is fully committed in this direction, especially in view of the responsibility entailed by the next G8 Presidency in the year of the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change.
- Recent positions taken by the Italian Authorities might have raised eyebrows in some quarters. To dispel these concerns let me quote from the speech that the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered in Oxford last Monday:

*“On climate change, Europe should remain ambitious as far as our long-term vision and objectives are concerned, especially if the forthcoming US Administration should confirm a shift of policy on climate change. At the same time we should assess what is realistically achievable under the present circumstances. On one hand, the economic crisis will*

*seriously affect the affordability and the real impact of some measures envisaged for the next twelve years at European level. On the other hand, the transition to a low-carbon economy will disclose very important new opportunities of investment and may act as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. These two sets of factors will have to be assessed very carefully in the run up to the 2009 Copenhagen summit.*

*We are confident that the French EU Presidency will pave the way to a satisfactory outcome of the 2020 package, at the next European Council. We will be ready, immediately afterwards, as incoming G8 Presidency, to keep the momentum in the dialogue with Washington and the other partners, including those involved in the outreach exercises”*

- The commitment on climate change is shared also by Italian local Authorities, by the civil society at large and by significant parts of our business community. I am glad that, among the participants to this seminar we have highly qualified delegations from FIAT, from Istituto Motori of Naples and from Comune di Milano.
- I recently accompanied the Mayor of Milano, Signora Moratti, during her talks with British Ministers and the Mayor of London. A considerable common ground was identified on several critical issues and plans for future common work have been laid down. As you know, Milano will host in 2015, the Universal Expo devoted to “Feeding the Planet, Energy for life”.
- To have success in those areas, nothing can be more important than to build partnerships and coalitions of all relevant stakeholders, academia, research, business and no-profit organisations.
- I am confident that today’s seminar perfectly fits into this framework. I do hope that further initiatives can be launched, to explore further, from a scientific point of view, other challenges related to climate change.

- I know that my colleague and good friend, Prof. Amendolia, is already thinking of a seminar on eco-building materials for next year. It would be a perfect complement to the work you are embarking upon today.

Thank you