



“Opportunity in e-Health”

Anglo-Italian Workshop
30th November 2006

*Welcome by Giovanni Brauzzi
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- On behalf of Ambassador Aragona, regrettably unable to be with us today, I would like to thank the City University of London and the Politecnico di Milano for the cooperation and support provided to the Science Office of the Italian Embassy in London in jointly organising this important workshop.
- I would like to extend our thanks also to the Cineca Consorzio Inter-Universitario, Lombardia Informatica SpA and Metafora Informatica Srl, sponsors of this worthy initiative.
- The theme of this workshop is extremely important, since there can hardly be a more ambitious and promising task than trying to tackle the old and new challenges of public health (scientific, social, managerial) with the opportunities offered by the information and communication technologies already available or in the process of being developed.
- I warmly welcome what promises to be a mutually benefiting bilateral exchange of experiences, projects and ideas. I sincerely hope that it will be a two-way street exercise, where both sides will give and take.
- Building on this fruitful dialogue, I hope that the outcome of this meeting will foster far reaching initiatives at European level, in the framework of the updated Lisbon strategy. It would kill two birds with one stone, making some progress towards the knowledge economy, which has become the mantra of our future, whilst nurturing the sustainability of the new European social model.

- Further expanding the scope of this approach, I think that e-Health is certainly one of the key elements of any meaningful global development agenda. Few challenges are more decisive than expanding public health in developing countries and, at the same time, overcoming the digital divide through “leapfrogging” for these countries. We shoulder responsibility and have a role to play to make this perspective more concrete and feasible.
- In wishing the Anglo-Italian workshop all the success it deserves, allow me to suggest that the organisers take into consideration the idea of preparing a joint report on its outcome, to be circulated both at the level of the European Union and of the United Nations system (WHO/UNDESA)