



“Federalizing Process in Italy - Comparative Perspectives”

An international conference organized by the Department for Institutional Reforms and the Forum of Federations
Rome, February 18-19, 2010

Venue:

Via Santa Maria in Via 37, 00187 Rome

Thursday, February 18

Welcome Address (h. 9)

- Hon. Gianni **Letta**, State Undersecretary, Italian Government.
- Hon. Aldo **Brancher**, State Undersecretary for Institutional Reforms.
- George **Anderson**, President of the Forum of Federations.

Introduction (h. 9.30)

Challenges of Federalizing Process in Italy

- Prof. Beniamino **Caravita di Toritto**, University of Rome “La Sapienza”.

1st Session (h. 10)

Clarifying Division of Competencies

Chairperson: pref. Riccardo Carpino, Chief of staff, Minister for Regional Affairs.

This session looks at how different federal states have dealt with the question of how to divide competencies between the various levels of government.



- *Case Study Spain: How did Spain devolve competencies?*
Dr. Félix **Acitores Durán**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Territorial Policy, Madrid.
- *Case Study Germany: How did Germany disentangle competencies?*
Dr. Bernd **Küster**, Director, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Berlin.

Coffee break

- *Case Study Switzerland: How does Switzerland live with decentralized competencies?*
Dr. Anne **Benoit**, Legal Advisor, Federal Department of Justice, Bern.
- *Devolving competencies: the ongoing federalizing process in Italy.*
Prof. Antonio **d'Atena**, University of Rome "Tor Vergata".

Discussion

Lunch- h.13.30

2nd Session (h. 15)

Challenges of Fiscal Federalism in a Comparative Perspective

Chairperson: Cons. Claudio Tucciarelli, Head of Department for constitutional reform.

The focus of this session is on fiscal and expenditure autonomy, sharing of revenues, tax competition, equalization.

- *Comparative overview.*
Dr. Ethisham **Ahmad**, International Monetary Fund/London School of Economics.
- *The Canadian experience.*
George **Anderson**, President, Forum of Federations.
- *The Australian experience.*
Prof. Alan **Fenna**, Curtin University, Perth, Australia.
- *The Italian experience.*
Prof. Carlo **Buratti**, University of Padoa.

Discussion



Friday, February 19

3rd Session (h.9)

The role of 2nd Chambers/Upper Houses

Chairperson: Prof.ssa Melina De Caro, University of Rome Luiss

This session looks at the variations of federal second chambers in terms of selection of its members, their composition, power and role.

- *Comparative Overview.*
Prof. Ron **Watts**, Fellow, Queens University, Kingston, Canada.
- *The German experience.*
Dirk **Brouër**, Secretary General, *Bundesrat*, Germany.

Coffee break

- *Which role for regional and local governments in the Italian Parliament?*
Prof. Nicola **Lupo**, University of Rome LUISS.

Discussion

- *Focus on federalizing process and lawmaking.*
Cons. Valerio **Di Porto**, Chamber of Deputies Counselor - Italian Parliament.
- Sen. Andrea **Pastore**, President of the Commission for the simplification.

Discussion

Lunch - h. 13:30

4th Session (h. 15)

Living with Asymmetry

Chairperson: Prof. Paolo Carrozza, Sant'Anna School of advanced Studies, Pisa.

This session looks at how different federal states deal with aspects of constitutional, political and fiscal/economical asymmetry.



- *Case Study Canada: "Lived but not Loved: Asymmetrical Tensions in Canadian Federalism"*.
Prof. Thomas **Hueglin**, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada.
- *Case Study Spain: "Challenges of Asymmetrical Devolution in Spain"*.
Prof. César **Colino**, Professor of Political Science and Administration, National University of Distance Education (UNED), Madrid.
- *Case Study Germany: "Perspectives from East-Germany"*.
Dr. Michael **Schneider**, State Secretary for Federal Affairs and Envoy of the State of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federal Government; Chairman of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for territorial cohesion policy (COTER).
- *"Special Regions": the Italian way to asymmetry before and after 2001*.
Prof. Giulio **Salerno**, University of Macerata.

Discussion

Final remarks (h. 17.30)

Federalizing process in Italy: opportunities and risks. What to learn, what to avoid.

Chairperson: Felix Knüepling, Director Europe, Forum of Federations

- Prof. Carlo **Fusaro**, University of Florence.
- George **Anderson**, Forum of Federations.