



A CAPITAL MEETING

Mayors Boris Johnson and Gianni Alemanno on top of London's City Hall

**Keynes-Sraffa Award
& World Travel Market**

**Marconi Nobel
Centennial**

**Return of the Italian
Hovercrafts**

**Canova donation to
the Royal Library**

Mayors of London and Rome discuss social and environmental issues, urban development and the Olympics

11 December 2009



Mayors Boris Johnson and Gianni Alemanno on the City Hall roof top © smphotoneagency.com

Gianni Alemanno, the Mayor of Rome, made a short visit to London today during which he met Mayor of London Boris Johnson at City Hall. The two Mayors discussed urban social and environmental challenges of the XXI Century. Mayor Alemanno, presented his ambitious “zero impact city” climate change plan for the city of Rome, ahead of his participation in the Meeting for Mayors, organised at the margin of the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Mayor Alemanno’s project for Rome was the subject of a Financial Times article that appeared a few days before his visit.

The Mayors also discussed London’s 2012 Olympics and Rome’s candidature to host the 2020 Olympic games. Boris Johnson made supportive and enthusiastic comments on Rome’s effort to host the 2020 games, in front of many Italian journalists in attendance.

Earlier in the day, Mayor Alemanno had attended an Italy-UK workshop on the issue of eco-building, jointly organised by the Italian Embassy in London, the Italian Cultural Institute, the UK Energy Research Centre, the Polytechnic of Milan and ENEA, Italy.

Mayor Alemanno also met with representatives of several investment banks in the City, to discuss potential investment opportunities in projects for sustainable urban development in Rome.

- *Read the Financial Times article on Rome “zero impact city”*

UK visits by Italian politicians

Mara Carfagna, Italian Minister for equal opportunities, visited London on **2-3 December** and met her British counterpart and Minister of Justice, Maria Eagle during a working lunch. The aim of the visit was to discuss the possibility of a common European and international strategy to tackle the issue of violence against women, as part of Italy's G8 presidency activities on the protection of women's rights. The leader of the House of Commons, Harriet Harman, and the Labour MP Michael Foster also attended the lunch. Minister Carfagna visited a rape crisis centre and a refuge for women victims of domestic violence. She rounded out the visit by attending the annual Christmas Bazaar organised by the Italian cultural association "Il Circolo".



Minister Carfagna (centre) with members of the Italian Cultural Association "Il Circolo" © T. Bruccoleri



On **11 November** the **Minister for EU Affairs, Andrea Ronchi**, had meetings in London with the Minister of State for Europe, Chris Bryant, and the Shadow Minister for Europe, Mark Francois.

Minister Ronchi was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Italian Chamber of Commerce for the UK, where he met representatives of the Italian business community. Moreover, he attended a lunch hosted by the Italian Ambassador, where he met representatives of think tanks and media.

UK visits by Italian politicians

5 November 2009



The Interior Minister, **Roberto Maroni**, attended the G6 Interior Ministers Meeting at Lancaster House. Minister Maroni also held separate bilateral talks with Home Secretary Alan Johnson.

During the meeting the ministers discussed combating organised crime, information exchange amongst partner states and the fight against terrorism.

- *New English version of the Ministry of Interior website*

13-16 October 2009

A delegation of the **British-Italian Parliamentary Group**, headed by **Senator Anna Finocchiaro**, made an official visit to London from 13 to 16 October at the invitation of the Chair of the All-Party British-Italian Parliamentary Group, Rosemary McKenna.

The delegation held meetings with representatives of several parliamentary committees (i.e. the Chairman of the Defence Committee James Arbuthnot, the former Defence Secretary Jeff Hoon, the Chairman of the Treasury Committee John McFall) and with key advisers of Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Foreign Secretary David Miliband.



- *Read further information on the All Party British-Italian Parliamentary Group*

Michela Vittoria Brambilla, Minister for Tourism, opened the Italian section of the World Travel Market. Staged annually in London, the World Travel Market is an important four-day business to business event which provides a unique opportunity to the world travel trade to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business under one roof.

During her visit Minister Brambilla received from Sarah Miller, chief editor of the Conde' Nast Traveller magazine, the 2009 award presented to Italy as the Best Tourist Destination in the World.

- *Read about the Conde' Nast awards*



Minister Brambilla cuts the ribbon at the inauguration of the Italy section at the World Travel Market © sm.photonewsagency.com

6-7 November 2009

The **Minister of Economy and Finance, Giulio Tremonti**, attended the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in St Andrews.

The meeting provided an important opportunity to continue to drive forward the various commitments agreed throughout 2009 to combat the global financial crisis and secure a sustainable recovery.

15 October 2009



The **Minister for Labour, Health and Social Policies, Senator Maurizio Sacconi**, was the guest of honour at the fourth edition of the **Keynes-Sraffa Award**, which took place at the Italian Ambassador's Residence. The event is organised every two years by the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the

UK and confers this award to a British and an Italian personality who have contributed in a significant manner to the enhancement of the economic and industrial ties between the two countries. This year the recipients of the award were **Andrew Witty**, CEO of GlaxoSmithKline and **Stefano Pessina**, Executive Chairman of Alliance-Boots.

13 October 2009

Claudio Scajola, Minister for Industry, attended the Third Ministerial Conference on Carbon Sequestration Leadership which took place in London. During a bilateral meeting Minister Scajola and Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, signed an agreement for British and Italian cooperation on the development of carbon capture and storage projects in both countries.

Minister Scajola also reported on progress made towards combating climate change, following the recommendations of ministerial reunions and of heads of state and government during the Italian G8 Presidency.



Minister Scajola speaks at the conference
Photography: © Neil Spence Crown

► [Read more @ CSLF.org](http://CSLF.org)

10-11 December 2009

Science



A conference “A vision of sustainability: Building Technology, Communities and Design”, dealing with eco-building issues, was held at the Italian Cultural Institute on 10 and 11 December. The conference, organised by Prof. Amendolia, the Scientific Attache’ of the Italian Embassy, was attended by experts and representatives of Italian and British companies.

Mayor of Rome Gianni Alemanno, who was in London to meet Mayor Boris Johnson (see p.1 of this newsletter), made a speech at the conference stressing the commitment of the city of Rome to establish itself as the European capital at the forefront in the sectors of energy efficiency, environment protection and eco-sustainability of its own infrastructures.

20 November 2009

The Italy-UK workshop, “**Elderly between ageing and disease: hot topics**” was organised by the Office of the Scientific Attaché in cooperation with GE Healthcare. The aim of the workshop was to analyse the situation in the respective countries with regards to healthcare for the elderly population. In particular, the challenges arising from neurodegenerative diseases and the evaluation of medical research in diagnosing pathologies such as Alzheimer’s.

The workshop highlighted the challenges that ageing, demographic and social change are bringing upon the UK and Italian healthcare systems. Numerous experts took part in the workshop and addressed issues ranging from healthcare policy to technological innovations that contribute to improving early diagnosis of pathologies related to the ageing process.

“Our wireless world” celebrates Guglielmo Marconi’s Nobel Prize 1909-2009



23 November 2009

Science

A conference took place at the Institute of Physics in London to celebrate the centenary of the awarding of the Nobel Prize to Guglielmo Marconi for his pioneering experiments in wireless telegraphy. “Our wireless world” was organised by Prof. Salvator Roberto Amendolia, the Scientific Attaché of the Italian Embassy, the Institute of Physics, the Italian Cultural Institute in London, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Committee for the Nobel Centenary to Marconi.

The event was supported by the Marconi Foundation, the Italian National Research Council (CNR), and the Marconi Society and was attended by over 100 experts from the telecommunication, cultural and academic world.

The aim of the conference was not only to celebrate the event but also to provide presentations from eminent researchers on the progress of telecommunications in recent years and their future development.

Princess Maria Elettra Marconi, daughter of the scientist, made a very appreciated speech recalling all the stages of her father’s life from her privileged observation point.

- *See the website of the event*



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Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona has been appointed member of the **Group of 12 Experts** by **NATO Secretary-General Rasmussen**, to oversee the development of the New Strategic Concept for the Alliance, after having completed his mandate of more than five years as Italy's Representative to the Court of St. James.

- *Official portrait picture of the Group of 12 Experts*

Flood heroes return for hovercraft training

Only days after Cumbria was hit by severe flooding, 15 Italian hovercraft instructor pilots spent the week in Gloucestershire, the scene of the previous worst UK flooding during the summer of 2007, training the county's newly formed Fire & Rescue Service's Hovercraft Rescue Team. The team specialises in rescue on unstable surfaces and wide-area flooding.

The Italian instructors, whose presence for the week-long training received praise from Councillor Will Windsor-Clive of Gloucester County Council and Terry Standing, Gloucestershire's Chief Fire Officer, are water rescue practitioners from a range of organisations including Hi-Tech International, Venice Fire Service, Grosseto Fire Service, the Red Cross and CFUSCN, who operate under the Italian Government's Civil Protection Department.

Two of the pilots who provided training had also valiantly assisted Gloucester Fire and Rescue during the summer floods of 2007.

Right: One of the Hi-Tech International rescue hovercrafts from Italy during a training session on the River Severn (picture courtesy of Marco Ferrotti - CFUSCN)



- *BBC report*
- *Read of the previous intervention by the Italian hovercraft pilots in NL 13*

**Canova work of art donated to The Royal Library
by the Marilena Ferrari Foundation**

Culture



Photo: courtesy of the Marilena Ferrari Foundation

“*Antonio Canova. L’Invenzione della bellezza*” is an extraordinary work of art (photo) which was donated by the Marilena Ferrari Foundation to Lady Roberts, Librarian of The Royal Library, Windsor Castle, during a special ceremony held at the Italian Embassy.

The event, which was hosted by Ambassador Aragona, saw also the attendance of H. R. H. Princess Alexandra. The exceptional gift is in a book form and celebrates the Italian artist Antonio Canova. On the front cover it contains a marble bas-relief representing a scene from *The Graces and Venus dancing in front of Mars*, whereas 76 photographs of Canova’s works can be seen on the inside pages of the volume.

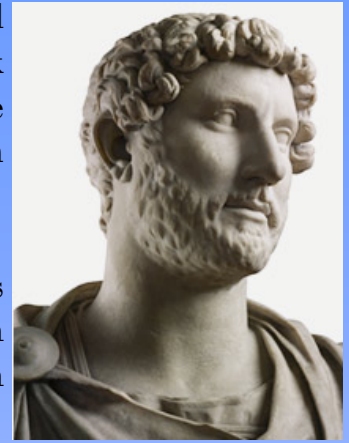
This unique piece was designed by eleven craftsmen of all over Italy; similar works of art were donated to the Heads of States attending the G8 Meeting in L’Aquila last July.

- *Web site of the Marilena Ferrari Foundation*

Hadrian Talks...

Dr Paul Roberts, the British Museum Curator who organised the exhibition on the Emperor Hadrian in 2008, gave a talk “**Hadrian, the Eternal Emperor**” to a packed audience at the British-Italian Society annual Leconfield Lecture event, which was held at the Italian Cultural Institute in London.

His illustrated talk covered the history of this leading figure’s reign, including his extensive travels throughout the Roman Empire, and also how his name and image have resonated in Italy and more widely in European culture over the centuries.



- [Web site of the British-Italian Society](#)

ART and FIAT

An exhibition by the Italian artist and architect Gemma Detti, displayed at Fiat’s London flagship showroom, has been so successful that it has been extended well into January 2010.



Artist Gemma Detti, in the art exposition area at the FIAT of Marylebone
© smphotonewsagency.com

Gemma Detti has lived in London since 2004. She is a founding artist of Art in Marylebone and her work has recently been selected for the Westminster Open Exhibition in 2008 and 2009. This is the first in a new series of exhibitions of contemporary Italian artists promoted by Carlo Presenti, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute,

and organised by Tony Dittli, Managing Director of Fiat Marylebone.

On the Move

13 January – 18 April 2010

[Click here](#)



A fascinating exhibition “On the Move” exploring the representation and perception of movement in the visual arts and sciences opened at the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art on 13 January. The exhibition, curated by Dr Jonathan Miller, will take the Estorick's own collection of Futurist masterpieces as its starting point but its scope will also include photography, especially the pioneering work of Eadweard Muybridge and Etienne-Jules Marey (both 1830-1904), and recent scientific research into the analysis of movement.