Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Warmly Received in Israel

An exceptionally cordial reception awaited Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as he arrived in Israel on June 9th at the invitation of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Welcoming Mr. Berlusconi before an honor guard in Jerusalem, Mr. Sharon underlined the excellent state of relations between the two countries, and referred explicitly to the role Italy could play to help Israel increase its level of cooperation with the EU. Prime Minister Berlusconi indicated that he had come to Israel after close consultation on the Middle East with President Bush, both at the G8 summit in Evian and through bilateral talks.

The Italian government intends to seize the "window of opportunity" of the last few weeks, Berlusconi told Sharon and President Katzav, working "side by side" with Washington on the peace process.

Prime Minister Berlusconi was received amid strong signs of friendship and appreciation for the solidarity demonstrated by the Italian government towards Israel during three years of the Intifada, and for the balanced position taken by Italy within the EU. In the discussions particular stress was placed on Italy’s unyielding determination to combat terrorism, and on its efforts to help stabilize the situation in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Sharon congratulated Italy for its assumption of the presidency of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and for Prime Minister Berlusconi’s presentation of his rehabilitation plan for the Palestinian economy, including incentives for private investments, presented at the G8 summit in Evian, and accepted in principle by EU members.

Mr. Sharon expressed his satisfaction with the state of mutual friendship chaired by MK Moshe Kahan, and composed of members from a wide range of political parties.

President Marcello Pera also met with the newly constituted Parliamentary Committee for Israeli Italian Friendship chaired by MK Moshe Kahan and composed of members from a wide range of political parties.

President Berlusconi’s visit was also welcomed by the newly constituted Parliamentary Committee for Israeli Italian Friendship chaired by MK Moshe Kahan and composed of members from a wide range of political parties.

President Pera underlined the importance of the EU’s role in strengthening relations with Israel, as well as in facilitating implementation of large projects.

President of the Italian Senate Visits Israel

The President of the Italian Senate, Prof. Marcello Pera, visited Israel on May 27-29, as a guest of Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin.

Prof. Pera’s high-profile two day visit, which included a warmly received appearance in the chamber of the Knesset, involved meetings with high ranking Israeli national and political figures, including President Moshe Katzav, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, and Labor Party President Shimon Peres.

Prof. Pera also met with the newly constituted Parliamentary Committee for Israeli Italian Friendship chaired by MK Moshe Kahan and composed of members from a wide range of political parties.

President Pera also met with representatives from Israel’s major universities to examine possibilities for mutual collaboration with Italian institutions. At a conference on relations between Israel, Europe and the US, held at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Prof. Pera’s speech, “Israel, Europe and Islam”, aroused considerable interest for its accent on the theme of dialogue with Islamic societies as a means of unity and understanding between cultures. President Pera’s schedule also included a visit to Yad Vashem, where he laid a wreath, and concluded with meetings at Jerusalem’s Italian Synagogue with representatives of Israel’s Italian community. In all his encounters Prof. Pera underlined the importance of structured reciprocal cooperation.

Italy Assumes Presidency of the EU on July 1st

The Italian Presidency will have five main priorities

Intergovernmental Conference

On the basis of decisions taken by the European Council on July 1st, the Italian Presidency will convene the Intergovernmental Conference by October 2003, and will enable it to complete its work in the shortest possible time. This will allow EU citizens to vote for a new European Parliament in June 2004 with prior knowledge of the new constitutional charter. Italy expects that the signing of the new Treaty will take place in Rome sometime between May 1st 2004 and the European parliamentary elections.

European Economy

The Italian Presidency will give maximum priority - through increased public investments, also involving European financial institutions - to the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy, aimed at making the European economy the world’s most dynamic by 2010. The objectives are the modernization of labor markets, the promotion of entrepreneurship, and the creation and diffusion of knowledge and innovation. This strategy will be completed by the development of an efficient transportation network, as well as by new financial tools developed in synergy with the European Investment Bank that will facilitate the implementation of large projects.

European Enlargement

The main goal is to complete the process of European unification, tipping the balance of the EU slightly in favor of the southern regions. The Italian Presidency aims at finding a blueprint that will enable to conclude by 2004 the negotiations for the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, which may join the Union in 2007. The progress of Turkey towards accession will be monitored and Turkish efforts to move towards implementation of internal reforms will be encouraged. The Italian Presidency also views as essential the strengthening of ties with the Russian Federation and a more active involvement with other CIS members. Italy will spare no effort so that any opportunity to consolidate relations of the EU with Israel can be seized, with a view to a wider and more structured reciprocal cooperation.

SUMMER LANGUAGE COURSES AT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE - 03-5187966
Celebration of Italian National Day in Israel
Minister of Foreign Affairs Silvan Shalom underlines excellent bilateral relations

Speaking during a reception on June 2nd to mark Italy’s Republic Day, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom recalled his recent talks in Israel with visiting Italian Senate President Marcello Pera, and stressed the quality and intensity of the "excellent bilateral relations" enjoyed between Israel and Italy.

Hosted by Ambassador Giulio Terzi in the spacious garden of his Ramat Gan residence, the reception was attended by Shimon Peres, Deputy Defense Minister Zev Boim, several members of the Knesset, and other well known figures.

Minister Shalom also referred to the Government’s keen interest in Italy’s forthcoming Presidency of the EU, which could contribute significantly to the quest for peace in the Middle East and to the strengthening of Israel’s ties with the Union. He added that Israel “greatly appreciated” Rome’s decision to take over the chair of the "Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research," in 2004. "This decision was a confirmation of the special sensitivity Italy has shown towards Israel which also made it one of the first European countries to approve legislation establishing a Day of Memory [recalling the victims of the Holocaust],” the Foreign Minister added.

Addressing over 1000 guests Ambassador Terzi recalled the values of the Italian Constitution, and the Government’s plan for a more active involvement in the political, economic and cultural affairs of their state by Italians living in a foreign country, evidenced by the new law allowing Italian nationals to vote from abroad. Following the other speeches, Ambassador Terzi conferred the decoration of Cavaliere al Merito della Repubblica Italiana on two long-time Israeli friends of Italy, MK Colette Avital and Dr Uri Savir.

Italy Assumes Presidency of EU
(cont. from p. 1)

The EuroMediterrenean Partnership ("Barcelona Process") will be relaunched, with the aim of creating a Mediterranean Bank, intended to engage the countries of the two shores more intensively in joint development projects.

Europe in the World
Europe must become a strong and authoritative voice in international affairs. It must unify its response to crisis situations, and work in collaboration with the United States to assure security and peace in the world. Europe must increase its defensive capabilities in partnership with NATO. In this context, support for the Middle East peace process will make an added importance as the "Quartet" verifies progress in the implementation of the "Road Map". The Italian Government’s announced Plan for the rehabilitation of the Palestinian economy designed to improve living conditions in the Palestinian areas, and lately fully supported by the G8 - will enable the implementation of a parallel track to political negotiations between the sides.

The Italian Presidency aspires to a Europe that will promote the values of democracy, freedom and respect of fundamental rights all over the world.

Security for Citizens
The Italian Presidency will work to strengthen the security of European citizens. The struggle against international terrorism must be accompanied by efficient measures to control cross-border crime and clandestine immigration. Bilateral relations and collaborative projects should be strengthened with the immigrants’ countries of origin and transit.

Italy Will Take over Presidency of Holocaust Taskforce

Italy’s assumption next year of the Presidency of the "Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research" was approved unanimously at a meeting of the organization in Washington in May.

The Task Force was established in 1998 on the initiative of Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson to gain political and social support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research both nationally and internationally. Italy joined the Task Force in 1999 and the following year sent an official delegation to the International Forum on the Holocaust in Stockholm, which was followed by an important declaration of international cooperation.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Warmly Received in Israel
(cont. from p. 1)

relations and for the close ties of cooperation in many sectors between the two countries. He added that bilateral commercial exchange is on the rise and further initiatives and investments are expected, especially in the hi-tech, communications, and environmental technologies sectors, as well as in infrastructure projects and defense. At Jerusalem’s Italian Synagogue, Mr. Berlusconi also met the Italian Jewish community in Israel.
Gen. Rolando Mosca Moschini Nominated President of the EU Military Committee

The Italian Defence Chief of Staff, General Rolando Mosca Moschini, was designated on May 7th 2003 by the EU Military Committee to succeed General Gustav Hagglund (Finland) as its President.

General Mosca Moschini’s appointment was approved on May 19th 2003 by the EU Council. He will begin his three year mandate at the conclusion of the current presidency (March 2004). The candidacy of General Mosca Moschini was submitted by the Minister of Defence, Antonio Martino. Its acceptance represents a significant recognition for Italy, whose armed forces are involved in several international missions, as it starts its 6 month presidency of the European Union.

The Military Committee of the European Union is responsible for all EU military activities, in addition to providing counsel and recommendations to the Political and Security Council. General Hagglunds’s mandate will end in April 2004; until this date General Rolando Mosca Moschini will remain as the Italian Defence Chief of Staff. General Rolando Mosca Moschini was born in Umbria in 1939. He attended the “Nunziatella” Military School, the Military Academy, the Junior Officers School, the Staff College and the Defence Centre for High Studies. He has University Degrees in Strategic Sciences and Sociology.

From 1991 to 1993 he was Deputy General Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Intelligence and Security Services. He served abroad for two years, in the Headquarters of the 3rd British Division (UK Mobile Force) and, for three years, as Military Attaché at the Italian Embassy in London. In 1993 he was appointed Military Advisor to the Italian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, took part in the 48th, 49th and 50th United Nations General Assemblies and was member of the Italian Delegation in the Security Council. In 1996 he commanded the 3rd Army Corps. From January 1997 to March 2001 he served as Commanding General of the “Guardia di Finanza” (Economic and Financial Police). General Rolando Mosca Moschini was appointed Italian Defence Chief of Staff on April the 1st, 2001.

Italian Culture Week in Nazareth

A week of Italian Culture was held at Nazareth’s Garden Hotel on June 4-6. Organized by the Haifa branch of the Cultural Institute in cooperation with the ‘Sacra Famiglia’ Hospital, the occasion was the first for an Italian exhibition of this size to visit the north of Israel.

The week was launched on June 4th with a highly successful exhibition of paintings “Realtà immaginarie” by Noemì Tedeschi and Pia Levi. This was followed by Poetry for Peace, a reading of works by the Israeli poet Israel Bar-Kohav and the Arab poet Taha Mohammed Ali. The third event, on the theme Italiani in Terrasanta, on June 5th, was dedicated to the culture of Christian religious Italians and pilgrims in Israel, whose work has contributed so much to the spread of the Italian language in this country. On June 6th over 700 children from Nazareth participated in three performances of Pulcinella by the Cervia theatre company, which has longstanding ties with Israel. The ‘Culture Week’ concluded with a concert by the tenor Gianluca Ansalone accompanied by Maestro Massimo Lambertini.

President of Italian Senate Visits Israel

strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between Italy and Israel “which has the right to exist, and to exist in peace.” He also underlined Italy’s unequivocal condemnation of terrorism as a “non-negotiable element.” In this regard Pres. Peres recalled the commitments towards peace in the region undertaken by the Italian government, which will take on added impulsion during Italy’s forthcoming term as President of the European Union. President Peres also discussed Italy’s upcoming Presidency of the “Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Emembrance, Remembrance and Research” in 2004.

Developments in Italian-Israeli Cooperation on Environment

important cooperation initiatives have been developed between Italy and Israel as a result of the “Italian-Israeli Forum on Environmental Technologies”, held in Tel Aviv in October 2002

In April this year the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory and Tel Aviv University signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which foresees possible cooperation actions in various fields: sustainable development, renewable energies, energy conservation, air quality, water management, waste management, and sustainable agricultural and environmental protection.

More recently Prof. Zev Levin, Head of The Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University, visited Italy and had a meeting at the Ministry of Environment and Territory, in Rome, to start the implementation on five topics of the aforesaid Memorandum of Understanding, for which the Italian Ministry of Environment has already allocated 1.5 million euro. The topics are: spring and river renovation, photovoltaic cells and solar energy, forecasting of urban air pollution, environmental issues of artificial islands, and research related to desertification. In addition, the Israeli Export Institute organized in May a mission to Italy (Bari and Trieste) of several Israeli companies active in the field of Environment, where they had very fruitful meetings with Italian counterparts.

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One of the most exciting exhibitions dedicated to the city of Venice in recent years, ‘Venezia Città Magica’ closed in Jerusalem on June 18th.

The Venice project counted a large number of events, including theatre performances, films and documentaries depicting the sights and sounds of Venice, a series of conferences dedicated to Venice’s rich and ancient cultural tradition through every aspect of the arts, a photographic exhibition, and an enchanting concert of music performed in characteristic Venetian style. The Venice Project was organized under the patronage of Ambassador Giulio Terzi with the participation of Prof. Reuven Bonfil, Dr Roni Ellenblum, Ms Ahuva Passow-Whitman, Dr. Yehuda Pardo and Prof. Therese Malachi. The conference was followed by a video projection of the film entitled, “A Return to Venice” by the artist Gadi Castel-Castelbolognesi. From May 4 to June 8, the Cinematheque of Jerusalem screened a series of films on Venice, Venice at the Movies, including films by Luciano Emmer, Francesco Pasinetti, Gadi Castel-Castelbolognesi, Enrico Maria Salerno and Dino Risi. The Cinematheque also hosted the photographic exhibition of Gadi Castel-Castelbolognesi “Venetian and North Italian Carnival”, that illustrated with beautiful pictures this most deep-rooted of Italian traditions.

The Chan Theatre, with the participation of Thespi, The Jerusalem International Festival of Theatre, presented the monodramas “Abramo” and “Il Minotauro” written and performed by the Italian dramatist Paolo Puppa. On May 14th an entire evening dedicated to Carlo Goldoni, with Paolo Puppa performing a chosen number of extracts from Goldoni’s works, was held at the Israel Goor Theatre Archives and Museum in Jerusalem. The evening was directed by Mr Eliezer Shmueli, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Israel Goor Theatre, in the presence of the Italian Consul General, Min. Gianni Ghisi; Mr Oded Feldman, Director of the Department of Culture of the Jerusalem Municipality; Dr Yehuda Pardo, President of the Dante Alighieri Society of Jerusalem and Dr Lucio Izzo, Deputy Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv. Venetian music was celebrated at the Mercaz HaTarbut of Jerusalem on May 21st with Musical Venice, a concert of works from the XVIII century, accompanied by explanations and film footage. The event was organized by the artist Renzo Cesana, a distinguished Italian musician. The conference Venice-Magical City, which was accompanied by a slide show and a documentary film presented by Dr David Patsi, took place in Jerusalem’s Mercaz HaTarbut, on June 4th.

“Casanova, between myth and reality”, at the Mercaz HaTarbut on June 11th, given by Asher Salah of the Bezalel Academy of Art, was an interesting lecture dedicated to this very famous and intriguing personality, Giacomo Casanova, whose story is deeply linked to the history of Venice. Finally, on June 18th at the Italian Consulate in Jerusalem, in the presence of the Italian Consul General, Min. Gianni Ghisi, the closing evening of the Venice Project included a concert of Venetian music and a reception which the public attended in Venetian style hats and masks. Those who were not prepared had the chance to buy the hats and masks of Françoise Coriat, on display for the occasion.

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Italy-Israel Relations in Focus at Or Yehuda

On May 15th a congress on Italian-Israeli relations was held at the headquarters of the World Organization of Libyan Jews in Or Yehuda, organized in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute. The proceedings were opened by the President of the Organization Rami Cahalon and the Mayor of Or Yehuda Yitzhak Buhaza and was followed by an overview of the state of Israeli bilateral relations by Ambassador Giulio Terzi. Subsequent presentations were made by the Italian journalist Marina Valensise of “Il Foglio” (in Israel for a series of conferences on the struggle against anti-semitism in Italy), which concentrated on the Libyan-Jewish-Israeli diaspora; Professor Roberto Bonfil of the Hebrew University, who spoke on Italian and Jewish culture - past and present; Professor Lia Addadi, who outlined 26 EU-sanctioned research projects currently in progress between the Weizman Institute and Italian organizations; Amos Lasker, President of the Med-Nautilus Group, the Italo-Israeli joint venture which has constructed an undersea fibre optic cable connecting Mediterranean countries including Italy, Israel, Greece and Turkey; and the President of the Association of Italian Jews, Arch. David Cassuto, who spoke about synagogues of the Mediterranean region. The event, which aroused considerable interest, was intended to provide a detailed overview of the current state of bilateral relations between the two countries. An exhibition of photographs of Rome (right) by the Hungarian artist Tiberius Zvi Keller was also on display.

Venice Calls on Moses To Halt Floods

Italy has officially approved the construction of a multi-billion Euro underwater project designed to hold back the sea and help to rescue Venice from sinking. The “Moses” project will consist of hinged barriers erected on the seabed off the coast of Venice which will be raised to block incoming high tides. The tidal barriers, made up of 79 steel sheets, 20 metres wide and weighing 300 tonnes, will cost €3.5bn to construct. They will lie on the sea floor to permit tides to flow normally most of the time and allow the healthy exchange of water and sea life between the lagoon and the Adriatic Sea, a key environmental consideration. But the same barriers will be pumped with air and pivot to the surface when the sea rises more than 1.1 meters, a level that in the past would have caused flooding. The project is named for Moses, whose powers parted the Red Sea and whose name officials hope will provide luck in preventing Venice’s canals from continually breaking their banks. Floods have become an increasingly common occurrence in Venice, where in recent years the 5-month rainy season has seen the city flood an average once every 3 days, though most last for only a few hours. But once every few years – most recently in 2000 and 2002 – the city’s canals dramatically overflow onto its streets and stay there for several days, threatening to damage some of the priceless works of art and architecture for which Venice is known. Water levels have risen by 80cm since the 18th century when Canaletto painted the lagoon city. The city’s tourist centre, St Mark’s Square, floods more than 100 times a year. Less than a century ago, the city flooded 60 times in a decade. The project is due for completion by 2010.

High School Students from Raanana, Bethlehem and Verona Find They Have Much in Common

A joint delegation of 50 senior high school students from Raanana and Bethlehem recently visited Verona, Italy, at the invitation of the Mayor of Verona, Mr. Paulo Zanotto, whose city signed a sister-city treaty with both Raanana and Bethlehem in 1998. The host school in Verona - Liceo Scientifico “G. Fracastoro” - prepared a full program of meetings, cultural and sporting events and touring with a view to building a base of friendship, cooperation and good neighborliness between youth of the three cities. The students, from the Aviv Senior High School in Raanana and the Terra Sancta School in Bethlehem stayed in the homes of Verona students. The Mayor of Raanana, Mr. Zeev Bielski first raised the possibility of this three-way interaction between students, when he hosted Verona Mayor, Mr. Paulo Zanotto, in Raanana last summer. Explains Bielski: “I attach great importance to promoting dialogue and mutual understanding between peoples of the region in general and between youth in particular - especially during these difficult times. The rich program of meetings and social interaction allows all the students to meet, share common experiences and discuss issues of common interest, including the situation in the Middle East.”
Venice hosted in April the 37th edition of Vinitaly, the international wine and spirits exhibition, featuring the best winemaking from across the globe.

Over 135,000 professionals and wine lovers visited the stands of 4,000 companies from 27 countries, representing tradition and innovation.

Prior to the inauguration of the exhibition, Vinitaly hosted also the 11th International Wine Competition, the most selective of its kind worldwide, since it awards only 88 medals, four for each of the 22 categories of wines. The purpose of the organizers, VeronaFiere, is to highlight the best in wine production and stimulate the efforts of wineries in improving the quality of their products.

It is impossible to describe briefly the "revolution" in Italian winemaking, but analysis of some of the data circulated during the fair showed clearly that the wine industry is in the midst of a process aimed at reducing its quantitative output whilst stimulating the efforts of wineries in improving the quality of their products. Wine, once considered "food", is now becoming a "luxury item" and the people who make them. On the other hand producers in emerging countries, like Chile and Australia, follow the global trend of standardized tastes and "international varieties" such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay.

Italian Wine Exports to Israel and Worldwide

Italy is the largest wine exporter to Israel, followed by France and Chile. Total Italian wine production covers 830.00 hectares of vineyards, with 1 million Italian wine producers. In 2001 Italy produced 52m. hectolitres of wines, and exported 15.6m. hectolitres, worth €2.580m.

Source: Italian Trade Commission

Israel-Italy Forum on Artificial Intelligence

The Italian-Israeli Forum on Computer Science: Research and Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Industry took place in Tel Aviv and Haifa on June 17-19th.

Organized by the Embassy, in co-operation with the Istituto Trentino di Cultura and Haifa University's Caesarea Rothschild Institute of Computer Science, with the support of the Tel Aviv office of the Italian Trade Commission, the Italy-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Israel Export Institute and the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, the event was well attended by a representative selection of leading personalities from both the scientific and commercial sectors, and was the object of considerable media attention. The Italian delegation to the conference comprised representatives from Italy’s leading universities and research centers with an interest in Artificial Intelligence, including the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), the Universities of Milan and Pisa, commercial enterprises and industrial research centers such as FIAT’s CRF, and covered such diverse sectors as data mining, telecommunications, medicine, production processes, e-commerce, finance and company logistics. More than 120 leading personalities in the field of Artificial Intelligence participated in the event. In his introductory remarks Ambassador Terzi, referring specifically to the excellent results achieved during last October’s Forum on Environmental Technologies, clarified the value of this new initiative by the Italian Foreign Ministry in the context of ongoing activities planned through the Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological R&D Cooperation. The Forum was held as part of the "Israel Gateway 1 Conference", which was inaugurated by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Michael Ratzon. The Embassy’s stand, intended to present its work as well as that of the Cultural Institute, the Trade Commission (ICE), and the Italy-Israel Chamber of Commerce, was visited by a large number of people interested in examining commercial and investment opportunities between the two countries. Presentations of companies and institutions, and over 50 one-to-one company and individual meetings were organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Commission. On June 19 an agreement between Haifa University and Trento’s Istituto di Cultura was signed.

Euro Nano Forum 2003 Conference

A nano forum aimed at examining the present situation in the development of nanosciences and nanotechnologies in Europe will take place from 9 to 12 December in Trieste, Italy.

The forum will gather all concerned actors, at different levels, to discuss and exchange experience regarding nanotechnology, within the context of the European Research Area (ERA), the forthcoming enlargement of the EU and the international dimension and integrating character of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). More specifically, participants will be asked to consider and eventually identify potential ‘bottlenecks’ to the expansion and reinforcement of nanosciences in general, and to the subsequent formulation, development, application and use of nanotechnology-based products and services. The event is being supported by the European Commission. <>

Shenkar College Awards Dinner

On May 22, Ambassador Giulio Terzi hosted the Awards Dinner, the final prestigious event of the annual International Board of Governors meeting of the ‘Shenkar College of Engineering and Design’.

The Shenkar College of Engineering and Design is a unique institution for higher education situated in the heart of Ramat Gan. Shenkar College has a special relationship with industry since it was established in 1970 as a direct response to the needs of growing industries in Israel with a clear commitment to train young women and men to work and help build Israeli industry. The curriculum is constantly updated in order to train engineers and designers for future developments in Israeli and international industry, economy, commerce and cultural trends.

Ambassador Terzi spoke of the special connection between Shenkar College and Italy, both in the fields of design and engineering, and through the close and warm association between Italy and Israel. He mentioned the prestigious design prizes won by students and graduates of Shenkar College in Italian competitions held for students and graduates from all over the world, and expressed his hope that his office would be able to assist Shenkar College to find partners from Italian educational institutions for joint ventures on research projects, and in the fields of design and engineering. www.shenkar.ac.il

IST 2003: The Opportunities Ahead - People, Business, Research, Policies

This year's edition of the EU's highly influential Information Society Technologies event will take place in Milan on October 2-4, in partnership with SMAU.

IST 2003 will address European policies, strategies and research activities in all areas of the Information Society. The main theme is: The Opportunities Ahead - People, Business, Research, Policies

The conference will gather high-level decision-makers from the public sector, private industry and the world of research in the same place, tackling the same challenges to improve the prosperity, security and quality of life for all Europeans through the development of a user-centric European Information Society.

Major European strategic initiatives will be presented and debated: from IST research policies and the establishment of a European Research Area in the sector to the roll-out of broadband and mobile services and telecom deregulation. Other conference workshops will focus on identifying tomorrow’s major technological trends and organizing the European research required to turn vision into reality.

As in 2002, the IST conference workshops will be complemented with networking sessions, where companies and researchers meet to discuss joint research projects; the IST 2003 Exhibition, displaying the best European research projects in the sector, whether they stem from EU, national, regional or corporate research programs. One of the Exhibition ‘Zones’, moreover, will feature the 20 Winners of the European IST Prize;

IST 2003 is organized within the framework of the Italian EU Presidency by the Commission's Directorate-General for the Information Society, the Italian Ministry of Technology and Innovation and the Lombardy region.


IT Researchers and Innovators to compete for European prizes worth 700,000 euros to be awarded at the Milan IST 2003 Conference

The European Information Society Technologies Prize is recognized as a distinguished European Prize for innovative products and services in the IT and Telecom sector. A total of 700,000 euros will be awarded to a number of the best innovations in the field. This Prize is organised by EURACORE the European Council of Applied Sciences and Engineering - with the support of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Program of the European Commission.

www.ist-prize.org

European Investment Forum
September 30 - October 1, Milan

The European Investment Forum (EIF) is designed for companies in the ICT sector seeking private venture capital. The 10th edition takes place in Milan just before IST 2003. EIF delegates can participate in some aspects of IST 2003 at no cost.

Partly funded by the Information Society Technologies Programme, the EIF is a leading technology investment event for early-stage to 2nd-round financed IST companies from across Europe. Held from September 30 - October 1, it will attract some 250-350 delegates representing Europe's leading technology, investment and corporate players. At IST 2003 the EIF organisers will be running a series of sessions, including the Conclusions of the EIF Sector Summits, a workshop on raising investment and a coaching workshop.

Nathalie Saintmard Tel: +32 2 644 65 80
www.e-unlimited.com/efi

Connecting Communities and Businesses

International Forums on Information and Communication Technologies November 06-07, 2003, Palazzo Colonna, Rome

The Global Forum / Shaping the Future is an annual, independent international event dedicated to Business and Policy issues affecting the successful evolution of the Information Society. It is a not-for-profit initiative of Items International and Foundation Sophia Antipolis. “The Global Forum / Shaping the Future” is sponsored by organizations around the world interested in sharing and influencing global IT agendas, and aims to generate synergy between suppliers and clients of communications applications. The Forum enables business and government leaders from all sectors of the ICT communities to meet and work with suppliers and service providers.

www.items-int.com/Global_Forum/global_forum.htm
www.galleriacolonna.it

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Notizie Italiane
**Cultural Events in Israel during the Italian Presidency of the EU**

_Cultural Events in Israel during the Italian Presidency of the EU July – December 2003_

**EVENTS IN ISRAEL**

**JULY**

2 July Concert by Katia Ricciarelli
The concert, before an invited audience, inaugurates the assumption of Italy’s Presidency of the European Union

**Residence of the Ambassador, Ramat Gan**

4 July Roma Pitturesca
Exhibition of Watercolors illustrating Vedutismo (view-painting) by the Italian artist Vanni (Mauro Rosi)

**Italian Cultural Institute, Jaffa**

9 July _The Italian Coffee Tradition_
Introductory presentation of the exhibition by Enrico Maltoni

**Arcaffe’ Ramat Gan**

13 July From Plant to Cup - 100 years of Coffee Machines
The exhibition celebrates the centenary of the Italian coffee machine, and revisits the coffee tasting tradition with which Italy is so strongly identified

**Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv**

10–30 July _Jerusalem International Film Festival_
Screening of 6 new Italian films

**Cinematheque, Jerusalem**

**AUGUST**

14–19 August “Teatro dei Burattini”
Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv

21 August _Authentic Italian Food Festival_
Nahon Italian Jewish Museum, Jerusalem

**SEPTEMBER**

20 September (to be confirmed)
Study Day in memory of Herbert Pagani

**World Center of Libyan Jews, Or Yehuda**

20 September Exhibition by Claudio Parmiggiani
Selected by the curator of the Museum, the exhibition will present a representative assortment of works by one of the most celebrated exponents of contemporary art

**Art Museum of Modern Art, Tel Aviv**

29 Sept. – 4 Oct. Exhibition and Poetry Reading
Art and poetry readings by three Italian artists Rita Degli Esposti, John Gian, Aldo Vianello

**Italian Cultural Institute Tel Aviv**

**OCTOBER**

12 - 30 October
_DanceEuropa - Dance Festival, Tel Aviv_

20 October
Concert by ‘Università della Canzone Napoletana’
Journey through the Neapolitan musical tradition

**Givatayim Theatre**

11-18 October
_Haifa International Film Festival_
Review of Neapolitan Cinema and Concert by ‘Università della Canzone Napoletana’
(to be confirmed)

24 Oct - 6 Nov
_International Harp Competition_
Emanuela Degli Esposti will be a member of the jury

25 October
International Harp Competition
Opening concert by Letizia Belmondo, winner in 2002

20 - 25 October
_3rd ‘Week of Italian Language Worldwide’_

**Dove il Sì Suona - Exhibition on the history of the Italian language**
(to be confirmed)

**Conference and Presentation of Italian Literature**
Works by Franco Cardini, Franco Scaglia, Gad Lerner

**Music**

**Concert by Ensemble dei Solisti Dauni**
Music from the cinema of _Ennio Morricone_ and Nicola Piovani (to be confirmed)

**Exhibition of works by Carlo Castelbolognesi**
**Performance / Exhibition: Sacro e Profano**
**by Marco Lodola**

**Cinema**

Roberto Rossellini Retrospective
Rossellini Foundation, Luigi Ferrara

Three evenings in memory of Alberto Sordi

**NOVEMBER**

9–14 November _Italian Week at Tel Aviv University_

**Conferences**

Il contributo italiano al soccorso degli Ebrei durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale
_Daniel Carpi_ (Tel Aviv University)

_Storia degli ebrei in Italia_
_Shlomo Simonsohn_ (Tel Aviv University)

_Storia del Rinascimento Italiano_
_President Benjamin Arbel_ (Tel Aviv University)

_Storia dell’arte italiana_
_President Nurith Kenaan Kedar_ (Tel Aviv University)

**DECEMBER**

2-12 December
_Exhibition by the Accademia della Cucina Italiana_ and conference with Prof. Giuseppe Dall’Osso, on the gastronomy of Italy’s regions

**Specialized Courses for Hotel Chefs**

**Mediterranean Architecture, Walled Cities: Identity, Meeting and Confrontation**
Exhibition and seminar by Prof. Giuseppe Strappa, and Prof. Alessandro Franchetti

**Simposio sulla letteratura italiana in traduzione ebraica**
Prof. Gideon Tourey, coordinator, with presentation by Dr. Edoardo Crisafulli

Concert with Maestro Claudio Abbado
Concert celebrating the conclusion of the Italian Presidency of the European Union.