



Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei



COLLOQUIA
ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

Press release

Dialogue in a Changing World.

The President of the ECB, Christine Lagarde, in Turin

A prestigious event of great cultural importance and significance for Turin, in line with the city's great European tradition.

Today, at the Carignano Theatre, **M.me Christine Lagarde**, President of the European Central Bank, held a *Lectio Magistralis* titled *Dialogue in a Changing World*, as part of the initiatives organised by the **Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei's** *Colloquia on Science Diplomacy* to promote the values of diplomacy and science in international relations.

The event was promoted and organised in collaboration with **Fondazione Agnelli** and **Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto**.

The GEDI Group is media partner for the *Colloquia* and this event, which was broadcast via online streaming by Repubblica and La Stampa.

In the presence of the Mayor of Turin Stefano Lo Russo, many local authorities and leading figures in civil society and economics, M.me Lagarde was welcomed to the city and its Carignano Theatre by the presidents of the organisations that promoted and organised the event.

In her *Lectio Magistralis* (the full transcript will be available after the event on the ECB's website: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/html/index.it.html>), **M.me Lagarde** stressed how the challenges the world must face today – including the pandemic and climate change – are unprecedented in terms of scale and complexity. Therefore, it is more important than ever to commit to searching for the truth and to contrasting the spread of false and groundless information, while establishing a public dialogue that is clear, contextualised and emphatic: these are required conditions for political action, which must align with science towards shared goals. Past experience has proven to us the progresses that derive from this joint effort: thus, today multilateral cooperation is more important than ever.

Roberto Antonelli, President of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, highlighted the need for the post-pandemic world to imagine and implement remarkable transformations. “*We possess the scientific knowledge, the know-how and the means for such transformations,*” he said. “*We also*

have many opportunities, in the current green pandemic recovery and in the several international processes unfolding over the coming months and years. We now need to let science and solidarity principles guide us, in order to build a world in which we can all live, peacefully and prosperously, together”.

Wolfango Plastino, President of the *Colloquia on Science Diplomacy*, emphasised how dialogue is a *modus operandi* and *vivendi* shared by both science and diplomacy. “*Dialogue – he argued – is a process that allows acquiring elements to make decisions after a discussion between those that know the real nature of the problem considered. A process which allows to reach the core of human coexistence, the identification of the common good, based on knowledge and respect of differences”.*

John Elkann, Chairman of Fondazione Agnelli, noted how Turin’s identity – its ability to merge knowledge and know-how, innovation and solidarity – aligns in great harmony with the spirit of the *Colloquia* and of the speech given by the President of the ECB. “*I fully share M.me Lagarde’s vision,*” he said. “*Fondazione Agnelli committed years ago to supporting education as a means to give all young people better opportunities for personal and social development, enabling everyone to understand today’s reality and, most importantly, to act responsibly. Today, this can only happen within the framework of sustainability and inclusivity defined by the 2030 Agenda”.*

Giorgio Barba Navaretti, President of Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto, remembered how the Collegio works at the forefront of research and didactics, and strives to spread economic, social and legal culture. “*Turin is proud to have hosted this event,*” he added. “*The President of the ECB has a crucial role in re-launching economic growth and controlling inflation after the pandemic. Furthermore, she presides over the complex relationship between finance and environmental transition. These are two decisive challenges for our future, of which M.me Lagarde spoke with our audience at the Carignano Theatre and with our students”.*

In his salutation speech, Ambassador **Ettore Francesco Sequi**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which collaborates on the *Colloquia’s* programme, thanked M.me Lagarde and the ECB for their efforts during the pandemic, taking action through monetary and fiscal policies that, together, were vital to alleviate the impact of the crisis. “*The international community cannot afford anymore to seek just a rebound towards pre-pandemic growth paths. We need to lay the foundations for a new and more resilient economic paradigm, which is digital, sustainable and inclusive. This is one of the key messages from the G20 under the Italian presidency and the CoP26 in Glasgow”.*

At the end of the *Lectio Magistralis*, a panel discussion was held, moderated by **Wolfango Plastino**, President of the *Colloquia on Science Diplomacy*. The monetary and fiscal policies adopted by the EU and European governments to counteract the pandemic, the current forecasts on inflation, the ECB’s attention for environmental issues and sustainable development, the future of the digital euro and, finally, M.me Lagarde’s personal commitment to gender equality were the topics **Patrick Flandrin**, President of the French Academy of Sciences, and **Alberto Quadrio Curzio**, President Emeritus of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, discussed with the President of the European Central Bank.

It is possible to watch the streaming of the event [at this link](#)

Turin, 29 November 2021