

English

Informal Council
of the Ministers of Labour and
Social Affairs

Varese 10 - 12 July 2003





Welcome

*D*ear Colleagues, welcome to Varese, the Garden City.

I am most pleased to open the Semester of the Italian Presidency of the European Union in my city. We are in the heartland of the industrial and hard-working Lombardy, but also in the centre of a natural setting of exceptional beauty which makes the visit to this city of 80,000 inhabitants really special.

The 7 lakes in the foothills of the Alps surrounding the city, the Sacro Monte with the Way of the Cross of the 17th century, the wonderful Italian gardens after which Verona is named, the Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art at Villa Litta-Panza: these are all good reasons to come back to Varese in the near future, perhaps free from institutional commitments, to spend a pleasant and relaxing period on holiday.

The city of Varese hosts the first meeting of the Informal Council of Ministers on Employment and Social Affairs

extended to the countries that in few months will enter the big European common family.

The decisions to be taken during the next few months are to enable Europe to face the complex challenges related to the organisation of welfare systems and to manage the far from easy task of social integration in all Member States. This is to be carried out in a European strategy of modernisation and ever-increasing integration, guaranteeing at the same time the protection of the specific features of each Member State.

The time of reunification represents a fascinating historical moment, rich in spurs and opportunities. We have the expertise and the knowledge to attain our goals and to offer to the citizens of the new Europe the prospect of a European continent being united, socially coherent, more modern and competitive.

I wish you all a pleasant stay and a successful meeting!

Roberto Maroni

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Official Programme

Thursday 10 July

10.00 - 13.00

Arrival and accommodation arrangements for the delegates participating in the Social Troika meeting

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch for the Social Troika participants at the Palace Grand Hotel

15.00 - 18.30

Meeting of the Social Troika, with the participation of the European Commission, the Council's Secretariat, the European Parliament, Social Partners and NGOs (Ville Ponti)

20.30

*Welcome Dinner at the Palace Hotel
(hosted by the Industrial Association of the Province of Varese)*

Throughout the day: arrivals and accommodation arrangements for the other delegations participating in the Informal Council.

Friday 11 July

8.30

Transfer from hotels to Ville Ponti Congress Centre

9.00 - 12.00

Working session at Ville Ponti Congress Centre

12.15

Family picture

12.30

*Visit to the Modern Art Museum of Villa Menafoglio Litta-Panza and lunch
(hosted by the President of the Province of Varese)*

15.00 - 18.00

Working session at the Ville Ponti Congress Centre

18.00 - 18.30

Press conference

20.30 - 24.00

Dinner in the gardens of Palazzo Estense, seat of the Municipality of Varese (hosted by the Mayor of Varese)

Saturday 12 July

7.00 - 8.45

Breakfast at the hotels

9.00

*Departure by bus to the AgustaWestland plant (manufacturer of helicopters) and visit to the plant
Distance from Varese km 20
Distance from Malpensa km 8*

12.00

Buffet lunch

From 12:30 onwards

End of the Official Programme and departure of delegations

Please be informed that the 11 official languages of the UE will be used. Translation service will be provided in English, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Greek.



Giardini Estensi



Sacro Monte



Villa Menafoglio Litta-Panza

Friday 11 July

9.00

Departure from Ville Ponti

9.30

Visit to the City historical centre: Basilica of S.Vittore, Baptistery of S. Giovanni, Broletto, Palazzo Estense

Afterwards visit to Sacro Monte and Chapels; coffee break at the typical Caffè Borducan

12.00

Return to Ville Ponti and visit to the Modern Art Museum of Villa Menafoglio Litta-Panza

13.00

Lunch at Villa Menafoglio Litta-Panza

15.30

Free afternoon, possible choices:

- visit to the factory and company store of Missoni fashion house;
- visit and shopping in the historical centre of Varese

18.30

Return to the hotels

20.30 - 24.00

Dinner in the gardens of Palazzo Estense, seat of the Municipality of Varese (hosted by the Mayor of Varese)

Varese the "Garden City"

Varese is located in the foothills of the mountain complex of the Sacro Monte and Campo dei Fiori.

The first signs of human presence on the territory date back to 10,000-15,000 years B.C., but only in 922 AD Varese is mentioned for the first time in a historical document.

During the Roman Age the area became a crossroads of relevant trade activities. Starting from the 9th century the small village established itself as meeting centre for people living beyond the Alps and the plain.

In 1164 the Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa) stayed in the city in the historical period of conflicts among the free Communes.

After the domination of a number of Signories, Varese obtained from the Emperor Charles V the privilege not to become enfeoffed in 1538. The 16th century marked the beginning of the first form of industrialisation and there are still a number of interesting signs of what is called 'industrial archaeology'.

In 1604 Giuseppe Bernascone started the building of the Chapels of the Sacro Monte, at the same time, the local noble families built sumptuous houses in the hills around the village having the best view on the lake and the mountains.

In 1765 Varese was granted as feud to the Duke of Modena and Reggio Francesco III d'Este, who between 1766 and 1771 built in Varese Palazzo Estense, later becoming his residence.

Finally, Varese became a city in 1816.

In 1836 died Luigi Sacco, doctor of Varese, who introduced the smallpox vaccine. The 'outside the walls' development of the small medieval centre started during the second half of the 20th century; next to the 18th- 19th-century villas, set in parkland, a number of Art Nouveau small villas were built. Finally, with the building expansion of the post-war period, residential buildings were built, thus creating the 'Garden City'.

In 1910, architect Giuseppe Sommaruga started the building of the Art Nouveau hotel complex of Campo dei Fiori.

At road traffic level, an interesting primacy was reached in 1925 with the opening of the first motorway in the world: the Milan-Lakes motorway. In 1927 the province of Varese was set up,

having its chief town in Varese itself. 1998 marked the opening in Varese of the University of Studies of Insubria with the Faculties of Medicine, Economics and Biological Sciences. Varese entered Europe with the opening of the new International airport at Malpensa.

Sacro Monte (Holy Mountain)

The Village of Santa Maria del Monte was established presumably during the Roman age as last outpost against the invasions of Barbarian peoples.

In 389 AD St. Ambrogio, bishop of Milan, arranged for the building of the first small church at the top of the mountain.

The Sacro Monte of Varese represents one of the most complete and significant examples of holy ways in Italy.

Between the 16th and 17th centuries in Lombardy and Piedmont the 'Sacri Monti' (Holy Mountains) became quite popular. These were devotional paths celebrating the theological cornerstones as well as the mysteries of the Catholic religion created to reproduce, within reach for the believers, the holy places of Palestine.

The Sacro Monte and the Viale delle Cappelle, up to the sanctuary of Santa Maria del Monte are the highest artistic expressions of the 17th century in Varese.

The Via Sacra starts from the Church of Immaculate Conception, by Giuseppe Bernascone;

proceeding in a long and devious path of more than 2 km with 14 Chapels devoted to the Mysteries of the Rosary. From the square where the 'Via Sacra' begins, at 585 m, the path goes up reaching the Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Monte at 880 m.

The small village placed at the top of the mountain, still keeps today the typical aspect of a medieval district, characterised by small shadowy alleyways and steep stairways, sweet-smelling corners and wrought-iron balconies overlooking the Po valley.

The Black Virgin (or Virgin of the Belt), probably of Longobard origin, is still venerated. Its worshipped wooden 14th-century statue is kept in the Church of the Sanctuary, built starting from the 15th century. The glorious Art-Nouveau funicular has been re-opened lately. It connects the valley below to the charming village



offering a unique natural sight, ranging over the seven lakes and in the distance over the Alpine chain of the Monte Rosa massif.

In the small square in the front of the Sanctuary there is the entrance to the Nunnery of the enclosed order of the Romite, hosting still today a remarkable number of nuns.

Palazzo Estense and Villa Menafoglio Litta-Panza

With Palazzo Estense Varese gained the definition of: 'Versailles of Milan', given to it by Stendhal.

The Palace - built between 1766 and 1771 by Giuseppe Bianchi - became the Court's residence of Francesco III d'Este, Austrian governor of Lombardy. The façade is very interesting, facing the gardens and with the typical shapes of 'Barocchetto Lombardo' (Lombard Late Baroque).

The ground floor hosts the Salone Estense with the big central medallion painted by Giovan Battista Roncbelli; whereas the first floor hosts the Ball Room, today Ceremony Hall, decorated with paintings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Estensi Gardens are its most significant element, having the typical scenery of Italian park, with a huge parterre, a big fountain and paths covered with hedges.

One park after the other, in the place which was called the 'villa circuit', Villa Panza can be reached. In the course of time, this villa had a number of owners.

The entrance of Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza - jewel of the 18th-century architecture is located in the ancient Castelry of Biumo Superiore. In 1996 Giuseppe Panza collector and patron of contemporary art, decided to give to FAI (Italian Environment Fund), his villa, the garden, the cottages and all the important furniture in it.

Nowadays the villa has been included in the circuit of the Guggenheim Museum. In addition to the Earl's works of art - among which 133 works of contemporary art of the 1960s-90s, one of the most important Italian private collections of avant-garde art - the villa houses a number of exhibitions attracting lovers of the arts worldwide.

Useful telephone numbers

Delegations' Offices

Delegations' Offices:

Each delegation will have at its disposal a work station equipped with PC and Internet connection, dedicated e-mail, telephone line and fax. Moreover, printer and photocopying machine will be available.

Italian Presidency: Delegation

Tel. 0332 287110 - 287131 o Fax 0332 287128
E-mail: italy1@eventiue2003.it o italy2@eventiue2003.it

Minister's Office

Tel. 0332 287128 • E-mail: maroni@eventiue2003.it

European Commission:

Tel. 0332 284175 - 287180 • Fax 0332 287148 - 287173
E-mail: europeancommission1@eventiue2003.it
E-mail: europeancommission2@eventiue2003.it

Country	Station	Telephone	Fax	E-mail
Austria	20	0332 286022	0332 286024	austria@eventiue2003.it
Belgium	1	0332 240706	0332 240718	belgium@eventiue2003.it
Bulgaria	2	0332 240498	0332 240505	bulgaria@eventiue2003.it
Cyprus	12	0332 236951	0332 237015	cyprus@eventiue2003.it
Croatia	11	0332 236927	0332 236949	croatia@eventiue2003.it
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Finland	26	0332 286098	0332 286112	finland@eventiue2003.it
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Greece	7	0332 235275	0332 236169	greece@eventiue2003.it
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Lithuania	14	0332 237194	0332 237221	lithuania@eventiue2003.it
Luxembourg	15	0332 237272	0332 237313	luxembourg@eventiue2003.it
Malta	17	0332 237328	0332 237578	malta@eventiue2003.it
Norway	19	0332 286016	0332 286020	norway@eventiue2003.it
The Netherlands	18	0332 237450	0332 237927	thenetherlands@eventiue2003.it
Poland	21	0332 286030	0332 286036	poland@eventiue2003.it
Portugal	22	0332 286045	0332 286048	portugal@eventiue2003.it
United Kingdom	30	0332 287099	0332 287100	unitedkingdom@eventiue2003.it
Czech Republic	3	0332 240884	0332 240891	czechrepublic@eventiue2003.it
Romania	23	0332 286068	0332 286071	romania@eventiue2003.it
Slovakia	25	0332 286086	0332 286096	slovakia@eventiue2003.it
Slovenia	24	0332 286074	0332 286077	slovenia@eventiue2003.it
Spain	8	0332 236304	0332 236959	spain@eventiue2003.it
Sweden	28	0332 287038	0332 287044	sweden@eventiue2003.it
Switzerland	27	0332 287015	0332 287034	switzerland@eventiue2003.it
Turkey	29	0332 287078	0332 287096	turkey@eventiue2003.it
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Useful telephone numbers

Liaison Officers

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<i>Belgium</i>	<i>CAREDDU Andrea</i>	<i>335 7816149</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>BONVENTRE Laura</i>	<i>335 7815985</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>IOANNOU Eftimia</i>	<i>335 7815827</i>
<i>European Commission</i>	<i>SIMONETTI Chiara</i>	<i>335 7815948</i>
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>FLØJBORG Mja</i>	<i>335 7816150</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>MARIELLA Francesca</i>	<i>335 7815854</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>MANNO Giorgia</i>	<i>335 7816183</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>RAMONDELLI Anna</i>	<i>335 7616184</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>GIACOMONI Maria Jada</i>	<i>335 7816147</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>LUCENTINI Leda</i>	<i>335 7815977</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>KNECHTLIN Giorgia</i>	<i>335 7816185</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>LOMBARDO Fulvio</i>	<i>335 7815857</i>
<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>POLI SABINA, GIULLIA</i>	<i>335 7815867</i>
<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>BLASI Tbarita Marilù</i>	<i>335 7816188</i>
<i>Malta</i>	<i>RIVOIRA Marzia</i>	<i>335 7815869</i>
<i>Norway</i>	<i>BANCHER Francesco</i>	<i>328 1821381</i>
<i>The Netherlands</i>	<i>LA VILLA Carlotta</i>	<i>335 7816191</i>
<i>European Parliament</i>	<i>RUSSO Francesca</i>	<i>335 7815953</i>
<i>Poland</i>	<i>EJBICH Chiara</i>	<i>335 7815973</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>GIORDANO Roberto</i>	<i>335 7816192</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>VECCHI GUARDIGLI Carmela</i>	<i>335 7815977</i>
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>CAMINITI Mauro</i>	<i>335 7816120</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>SERPICO Alessandro</i>	<i>335 7815987</i>

<i>General Secretariat</i>	<i>PADRONE Marzia</i>	<i>335 7815870</i>
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>MELIS Mirella</i>	<i>335 7815981</i>
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>CAREFAGNINI Debora</i>	<i>335 7815983</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>CARCHELLA Gabriele</i>	<i>335 7816166</i>
<i>Sweden</i>	<i>PANDOLFINI Allegra</i>	<i>335 7816132</i>
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>FARAONE MENNELLA Santiago</i>	<i>335 7815855</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>LUCONI Leonardo</i>	<i>335 7815988</i>

International Dialling Codes from Italy

<i>Austria</i>	<i>0043</i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>00352</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>0032</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>00356</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>00359</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>0047</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>00420</i>	<i>The Netherlands</i>	<i>0031</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>00357</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>0048</i>
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>00385</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>00351</i>
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>0045</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>0044</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>00372</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>0040</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>00358</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>00421</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>0033</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>00386</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>0049</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>0034</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>0030</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>0046</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>00353</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>0041</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>00371</i>	<i>Turkey</i>	<i>0090</i>
<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>00370</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>0036</i>

Useful telephone numbers

Consulates and Embassies

Consulates General in Milan:

Austria

*Pzza Del Libery, 8/4
Tel. 02-4812066*

Czech Republic

*Via G.B. Morgagni, 20
Tel. 02-29403051*

Croatia

*Via Dante, 9
Tel. 02 8051772*

Denmark

*Via Lodovico Ariosto, 30
Tel. 02-48008675*

France

*Via Della Moscova 12
Tel. 02- 6559141*

Germany

*Via Solforino, 40
Tel. 02-6231101*

Greece

*Via Turati 6
Tel. 02- 653775*

The Netherlands

*Via San Vittore, 45
Tel. 02-4855841*

Portugal

*Via V. Pisani, 31
Tel. 02-66986480*

Poland

*C.So Vercelli, 56
Tel. 02 48018978*

United Kingdom

*Via S. Paolo 7
Tel. 02- 723001*

Romania

*Via Gignese, 2
Tel. 02 40074018*

Spain

*Via Fatebenefratelli, 26
Tel. 02- 6570891*

Turkey

*Via S. Barnaba, 30
Tel. 02 5513370*

Switzerland

*Via Palestro, 2
Tel. 02- 7779161*

Embassies in Rome:

Belgium

*Via Dei Monti Parioli, 49
06-3609511*

Bulgaria

*Via P.P. Rubens, 21
06-3224640*

Cyprus

*Via F. Denza, 15
06-8088365-7-9*

Estonia

*Viale Liegi, 28 Int. 5
06-8440751*

Finland

*Via Lisbona, 3
06- 852231*

Ireland

*Piazza dei Campitelli, 3
06- 6979121*

Latvia

*Viale Liegi, 42 Int. 4-5
06-8841227-9*

Lithuania

*Viale Di Villa Grazioli, 9
06-8559052*

Luxembourg

*Via S. Croce In Gerusalemme, 90
06-77201177*

Malta

*Lungotevere Marzio, 12
06-6879990*

Norway

*Via Delle Terme Deciane, 7
06-5717031*

Slovakia

*Via Dei Colli Della Farnesina, 144
06-367151-2*

Slovenia

*Via Leonardo Pisano, 10
06-80914320*

Sweden

*Pzza Rio De Janeiro, 3
06-441941*

Hungary

*Via Dei Villini, 12-16
06- 4402032*

Hotels

General information

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Tel. 0332 461304
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City Hotel 21100 Varese
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Crystal Hotel 21100 Varese
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Fax 0332 237181
E-mail: crystal.va@bestwestern.it

Grand Hotel Palace 21100 Varese
Tel. 0332 327100
Fax 0332 312870
E-mail: info@palacevarese.it

Hotel Villa Castiglioni
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Tel. 0332 200201
Fax 0332 201269
E-mail: villacastiglioni@libero.it

Motor Hotel Varese 21100 Varese
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Fax 0332 312697
E-mail: info@hotelvareselago.it



General information

For security reasons, inside the Ville Ponti Congress Centre, the following areas have been identified:

- yellow area - press room at Le Sellerie and Villa Andrea ground floor, access allowed with red, blue and yellow badges;
- blue area - first and second floor of Villa Andrea except for Sala del Consiglio, access allowed with red and blue badges;
- red area - second floor of Villa Andrea Sala del Consiglio and reserved room, access allowed with red badge only.

The head of delegation will receive a pin, each delegation will receive some floaters for access to red areas.

Venue of the Meeting

Centro Congressi "Ville Ponti"
Piazza Litta 2 21100 Varese

Organizing Secretariat

Centro Congressi "Ville Ponti" Villa Napoleonica
Tel. 0332 236024/ 26 - Fax 0332 236155
E-mail: informalmeeting.varese@minwelfare.it

Info Point

Tel. 0332 287190/0332 287195 - Fax: 0332 287199

Travel Agency

Tel. 0332 287215 - Fax: 0332 286117

Promotional booths

Tel. 0332 286125

Site of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

www.welfare.gov.it

Airports

Malpensa - distance from Varese 30 km

Linate - distance from Varese 80 km

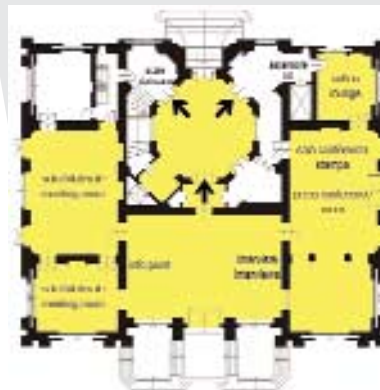
Various information

Medical Assistance 118

State Police 113

Taxi 0332 241800

The above numbers can be dialled from any telephone both of mobile and fixed network and will be operating 24 hours a day. Please note that medical assistance is always available.



Piano terra / Ground floor



Primo piano / First floor



Secondo piano / Second floor

Acknowledgements

In cooperation with:



COMUNE DI VARESE

 **PROVINCIA**
di **VARESE**



**Camera di Commercio
Industria Artigianato
Agricoltura di Varese**



**Unione degli Industriali
della Provincia di Varese**



Alitalia

