



PRESS RELEASE

The first Conference of the Eureka International Initiative under the Italian Chairmanship held in Cernobbio closes with significant results

EUREKA:

71 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN ENDORSED. THE EUROSTARS PROGRAM HAS BEEN LAUNCHED: IT WILL ENABLE THE “EUREKA NETWORK” TO WORK IN SYNERGY WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES JOINING THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAM.

Over **38 participating countries**, present with their High Level Representatives, for a total of **over 100 delegates. 71 new projects endorsed** – the highest number ever reached in a single session – for a global budget of **123 million euro**, and Italy at the top of the list of all participating countries, with **16 projects endorsed** and a global budget of **19,3 million euro**.

These are the very positive results achieved by the Eureka High Level Representatives Conference which took place in Cernobbio and was the first meeting organised by the Italian EUREKA Chairmanship, under the guidance of Fabio Pistella – CNR President – who was assigned the annual mandate by the Italian Government.

EUREKA is a Pan – European network consisting of **37 member countries and the European Commission**, whose aim is to foster the development and implementation of projects of Market – Oriented Industrial Research and Development (R&D) and of international cooperation, in order to increase European competitiveness in the global market.

“The proceedings – Chairman Pistella declared – have been unanimously approved by all participants and the Conference has thus attained all the relevant objectives it set out to achieve. Among these it is worth mentioning the conclusive ratification of the **Eurostars** program which will result in a closer cooperation of EUREKA and its member countries with the **European Union Framework Program**, as it had never been attained before. Such a momentous result will enable Eureka to achieve the long sought-after synergy – continued Pistella. “The key objective of the Eurostars program is the fostering of Research and Development projects coming from highly innovative small and medium-sized enterprises in every technological sector for civil use such as Information Technology, Materials, Environment, Transports and Medicine.

Among the **16 Italian projects** endorsed, the project named *One* is very important; it is particularly innovative for the motorcycle sector, it will be developed in partnership by **Italy, Austria and Switzerland** – with the probable contribution of **Turkey** – and with the participation of a leading Italian motorcycle company. The objective is to build safer motorbikes, with innovative materials and a low emission of polluting substances. Moreover, Italy will develop **5 out of the 16 projects** endorsed in cooperation with **Israel** in the manufacturing sector.”

“Within this framework, – the EUREKA Chairman declared – a significant part among the 71 projects endorsed deals with the sectors of **Information Technology and Materials**; they will therefore open important perspectives for such sectors, not only with regards to the impact of the scientific research results on the economical and productive systems, but also, on the other hand, new employment perspectives for the researchers who shall be engaged in such projects”.