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9546/23

RECH 183

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Candidature of Rome to host the EXPO 2030
	- Information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached a note from the Italian Delegation on "Candidature of Rome to host the EXPO 2030" with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 23 May 2023.

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Candidature of Rome to host the EXPO 2030 - Information from the Italian delegation

Italy intends to seize the opportunity offered by the meeting of the Ministers of Research to raise awareness on the contribution that the *EXPO Rome 2030* project could bring to the European research and innovation sectors as a whole.

Rome will be the only candidature for 2030 from an EU Member State. Therefore, this candidature is an important occasion for international outreach for the research sector in Europe.

The theme of Italy's candidature is "*People and Territories: Regeneration, Inclusion and Innovation*", which is strongly linked to our endeavours to tap the full potential of the social and economic value of innovation for Europe.

Rome EXPO 2030 will provide researchers from around the world with the opportunity to gather in a district of knowledge and innovation, in order to share ideas and develop innovative solutions to the global challenges linked to our theme - "People and Territories".

Moreover, the Exposition site is not intended to last for just the 6 months of the event; on the contrary, there is the possibility for pavilions to remain operational on a permanent basis at the exclusive disposal of participant Countries, thus creating a pole for academic and scientific research.

With this goal in mind, our campaign focuses on creating lasting partnerships with all participating Countries to develop the content of the pavilions, sharing the renowned Italian expertise. In this sense, we want to give each Country the opportunity to embark on a journey with us towards Rome Expo 2030 from the very moment of the vote next November.

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Rome EXPO 2030 will display cutting-edge technologies to create a truly net-zero carbon emission event, setting the benchmark of how global events should be organized in the future. The Exposition will be, in fact, the perfect venue to display the achievements of international research in this field.

Should Rome be selected, in fact, we plan to initiate collaborations in various forms that will lead to the Exposition. For instance, many Universities and research centres are ready to offer numerous scholarships to young students to come and study in Italy as a way to foster this long-lasting partnership.

With Rome Expo 2030, Italy wish to foster dialogue, academic and scientific exchange, while offering an inclusive educational platform.

Stressing the importance to bring back EXPO to Europe, Italy wants to reiterate its support for Ukraine's reconstruction. In fact, should Rome be selected, Italy is ready to provide Ukraine and the city of Odessa with a central role within the Exposition.

With the support of all EU Member States, Rome would be an EU candidacy, and its election would be a success for the entire European Union.

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