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Pavia e Ansaldo with Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo and the Consulate General of South Africa in Milan for “South Africa and Italy: opportunities of cooperation in the composite materials sector”

Milan, 20 June 2018 - Composite materials as an essential element of life and of modern industry will be the focus of the forum “South Africa and Italy: opportunities of co-operation in the composite materials sector” organized by law firm Pavia e Ansaldo, Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo and by the Consulate General of South Africa in Milan, in co-operation with Assocompositi - Associazione Italiana Compositi & Affini (Italian Association of Composites and Similar Materials), The Dti - Department of Trade and Industry and with Mandela Bay Composites Cluster, which will be held today, Wednesday June 20th, in Via del Lauro, 7, Milan starting from 10,30.

Composite materials, in the combination of various materials such as plastics and resins and other reinforcing fibers such as glass and carbon, represent a growing phenomenon. For transport they result in an increase in performance with a consequential reduction of consumption. In addition, as opposed to metals, composites do not rust, thus representing the ideal material for development and diversification of the South African economy.

South Africa, which is new in the production of this kind of material, has a historic opportunity to increase growth on the African continent by exploiting the potential that these new technologies have, especially in light of the fact that South Africa will soon launch the process leading to the signing of the agreement for the African free trade area.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Africa is in fact supporting the Mandela Bay Composites Cluster to develop the Composite Materials Sector.

The forum, moderated by **Mario Di Giulio**, partner with law firm Pavia e Ansaldo, the opening remarks to which will be given by TSD Nxumalo, Consul General of South Africa in Milan and by Filippo Codara, Vice Chairman of Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo will have a session of meetings Business-to-Business between the participating Italian companies and the speakers.

Andy Radford, Managing Director of the Mandela Bay Composites Cluster, will be available to speak via videoconference to define prospective industrial and commercial partnerships with the South African companies belonging to the cluster. Professor Roberto Frassine, Chairman of Assocompositi and **Daniele Carminati**, partner with Law firm Pavia e Ansaldo will be among the speakers.

“South Africa represents one of the most developed economies of the African continent and the announced forthcoming accession to the treaty on free trade of Kigali is an indication that it will further develop. The forum, thanks to its topic relating to composite materials, which represent the top quality components of the most wide ranging industrial sectors (it is enough to think of the wind turbines, the shipbuilding and aerospace sectors) further shows the excellences that this Country and the whole Continent can represent in the development of the global economy and of the opportunities that they represent for countries such as Italy, which made excellence the element of distinction of all its industrial activities”, commented Mario Di Giulio, partner with law firm Pavia e Ansaldo.

“Italy produces quality products, which are particularly suitable for a usage over a long period of time and, for its part, Africa has embarked on the way of transforming commodities locally. The complementarity between the Italian industrial system and the needs of the whole continent opens up clear opportunities for Italian companies in partnership with South African companies ” declared Filippo Codara, Vice Chairman of Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo.

“The Consulate General of South Africa in Milan welcomes projects which are mutually advantageous and invites Italian companies to visit the first African exhibit on composite materials that will take place November 7-9 2018 at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Port Elizabeth”, stated TSD Nxumalo, Consul General of South Africa in Milan.