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Pavia e Ansaldo for “Focus on Africa: food safety, environmental protection and sustainable development”

New opportunities for institutions and Italian companies at the business forum organized with Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo and the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma

Rome, 12 June 2018 - Law Firm Pavia e Ansaldo, in cooperation with Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo and with the Campus Bio-Medico di Roma, organized the forum “Focus on Africa. Food safety, environmental protection and sustainable development: new opportunities for institutions and Italian companies”, taking place today, Thursday June 12th, at the Associazione Civita, Palazzo Generali, Piazza Venezia 11, Rome.

It is a unique chance to meet and discuss the topics related to the agro-industry and food safety in Africa, and to the health hazards that may affect consumers resulting from the use of agri-food products of uncertain quality and dubious origin. At the center of the forum also power, water and sustainable development, which are topics in respect of which many African countries are increasing development plans of interest for the private sector and, in particular, for the Italian sector.

In addition, ways of financing the industrial plans in said contexts will be analysed through the tools made available by the main Italian financial institutions.

The event, which will be introduced by the opening remarks of Raffaele Calabrò, of the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma and Pier Luigi D’Agata, of Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo, will be attended by a number of Ambassadors and leading representatives of the African embassies in Rome, which will create an important moment of Networking with Italian companies. There will follow a keynote speech by Luigi Scordamaglia, Chairman of

Federalimentare.

The forum, moderated by Laura De Gara, of the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma, by Professor **Francesco Bruno**, partner with Law Firm Pavia e Ansaldo, by Diego Barba, of the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma and by **Mario Di Giulio**, partner with Law Firm Pavia e Ansaldo, will consist of four different panels, each of which related to a fundamental aspect of food safety, both regulatory, scientific and economic.

“In Africa the lack of food is often linked to the absence of appropriate growing and food preservation techniques” - stated **Mario Di Giulio**, partner with Law Firm Pavia e Ansaldo - “Food is sometimes even too organic, in the sense that the lack of appropriate treatments results in the crops being infected by natural contaminants that make them non-edible or hazardous for the health. Our forum exhibits - among others - the technologies devised and created by our research centers and universities and focuses particular attention on the respect for man and nature as the only key to fight hunger and ensure a future, not only to Africa but the whole humanity”.

“The international legal context on food safety is evolving towards a global right, where Countries, international institutions but most of all companies are the absolute protagonists. This new role of the companies planning to invest in Africa requires the knowledge of legal, technical and economic instruments that contemplate a different vision of the business, on the one hand rooted on the Made in Italy and the quality of the productions, on the other hand open to new markets and frontiers, as well as strongly linked to process innovations”, added Professor **Francesco Bruno**, partner with Law Firm Pavia e Ansaldo.

“Italy is world leader in many sectors of the agribusiness. But in addition to product and process innovations it is necessary to promote in Africa the Italian industrial culture and the PM’s model, to ensure a sustainable development that is compatible with the needs of a continent which, in the short term, will see a significant population growth and an increasingly wider middle class with growing needs” underlined Pier Luigi d’Agata, General Manager of Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo.

“Today we talk about food safety with our thought to Africa, while in our part of the world we discuss eating disorders, obesity but also malnutrition in the elderly

- explained in his speech the Dean of the Università Campus Bio-Medico, Prof. Raffaele Calabrò - In this scenario, as a University, we are called to train and update professionals and entrepreneurs of today and tomorrow: and educational mission, a challenge and a responsibility we are fully aware of. Give once again meaning and value to the words innovation and sustainability is a task that we try to carry on every day together with the students attending our degree courses on food sciences and human nutrition”.