

INVITATION

Ethical and sustainable finance for the future of the Europe

8th November, h 18.30, Brussels, European Parliament, Room ASP3H1

Sustainable and ethically-oriented finance as well as microfinance are engines of growth and development within European countries as demonstrated, over these years of crisis, by supporting employment, welfare and social enterprises.

On December 11th, 2016 the Italian Parliament has recognized, for the first time in the European history, the sustainable and ethically oriented finance, acknowledging the positive economic and social impact of the ethically oriented finance institutions (Law 232 – 11th of December 2016 T.U.B - art.111 bis).

Beyond the Italian case, similar initiatives could be undertaken at European level for promoting sustainable development, inclusion in all EU. As at 31.12.2016 the value of loans granted by values-based providers is about than 110 billion of EU; much more could be achieved with the appropriate support (see figures in the appendix).

Ethical and sustainable finance may act as tool for the EU in building a more inclusive Europe, close to younger Europe, delivering innovative environmental and social solutions, and highlighting the European leadership as the **White Paper on the Future of Europe** suggest.

For a deeper understanding on that, we are pleased to invite you at the European Parliament on November 8th at 6.30 p.m.. It will be the occasion for learning more about the Italian Law on Ethical and Sustainable finance, giving us the chance for discussing about the finance for a better future.

Speakers:

Chair

On. Patrizia Toia- Member of the European Parliament;

Welcome

Ambassador Giovanni Pugliese- [Italian Permanent Representation to the European Union](#)

Discussants

On. Silvia Costa – Member of the European Parliament

Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs

Baudouin Baudru, Cabinet expert, DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion

Mario Nava, Director-Directorate D-Regulation and Prudential Supervision of Financial Institutions. DG FISMA

Roberto Ridolfi, Director, Directorate C- Sustainable Growth and Development DGDEVCO

Ugo Biggeri, President of Banca Etica and Etica sgr

Dominique de Crayencour, Vice President European Microfinance Network

Katarzyna Pawlak, Deputy Director Microfinance Center

Benoit Lallemand, Secretary General of Finance Watch

Susanna Marietti, National Coordinator Associazione Antigone-President of Atletico Diritti

Peru Sasia, President of Febea (Ethical and Alternative Banks Federation)

*TBC

Appendix – figures about ethical and sustainable finance in Europe

Banca Etica is the first and only Italian bank entirely dedicated to ethical finance. Born in 1999, operates throughout the country through a network of branches, financial advisors and mobile banking services. Banca Etica collects the savings of responsible organizations and private citizens and uses it entirely to fund projects with a positive social impact. Actually Banca Etica has 40,000 members and 60 million € in share capital; deposits and savings for 1.2 billion € and loans and credits for around 1 billion € granted to organizations and enterprises active in social cooperation; international development; culture and quality of life; environment; housing; legality.

Even during the years of financial crisis between 2008 and today, Banca Etica kept an average growth rate of 10% in both savings and loans, and a non performing loans ratio that is much lower than the banking system average (1% in Banca Etica; 4.8% the average of other Italian banks). Solidity ratios have also always been much above the limits imposed by European legislation (the CET1 ratio is 12.58% at the end of June 2017). This particular ability to combine solidity, credit delivery and support for the real economy, highlights the reasons why ethical banks deserve a distinct and specific legislation. In 2014 Banca Etica opened its first branch abroad, in Bilbao, Spain.

The Banca Etica Group includes Etica sgr, an investment company which proposes ethical investment funds that have received significant international prizes for performances (current funding of 3 billion euros, more than 160,000 customers). Banca Etica Group includes also the Ethical Finance Foundation that promotes research, studies and initiatives on critical education in finance. Banca Etica is the only Italian credit institution member of Global Alliance for Banking on Values, a network of 41 banks worldwide inspired by the promotion of social and environmental sustainability. With budget assets of over 110 billion euros and higher credit quality than the rest of the banking system, which, moreover, lend to the real economy, in proportion to the assets, less than half of what the social oriented banks do.

Banca Etica is also a member of Emn and Mfc, the two Microfinance Institution networks. in Europe, who support job placement and the dignity of thousands of people, who would otherwise be expelled from the financial system.

The Bank is a founding member of Febea, Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks, whose members currently hold a portfolio of over 30 billion euros. These are inclusion loans dedicated to the social and civil economy.

Eighteen years after the birth of Banca Etica, the Italian Parliament decided to recognize the value of ethical finance by adopting a legislation defining and partly rewarding financial institutions that precede the common good and social utility.

In June 2017, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and Banca Etica signed the first guarantee agreement for social entrepreneurship in Italy under the EU's Employment and Social Innovation Program (EaSI). Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), and Ugo Biggeri, President of Banca Etica, signed the agreement at the 14th annual conference of the European Microfinance Network in Venice. The new guarantee agreement allows Banca Etica to offer credits for 50 million euros to 330 social entrepreneurs over the next 5 years, in Spain and Italy. Social enterprises, including those employing people with disabilities, long-term unemployed, migrants and asylum seekers, will benefit from loans at a reduced interest rate under the EU programme, with reduced requirements for real warranties.

The Socially Oriented Banks Network together with the Microfinance Institutions are focused on a wide range of social entrepreneurship sectors, innovative social start-ups, social farming companies, environment and renewable energy sources. Actually this network is a real instrument of inclusion at disposal of the European Union and its Citizens.