

PRESS RELEASE

TRADING IN THE NORTH-EAST A rôle for immigrants running businesses which promote growth in the local economy

THE UNIPOL GROUP PRESENTS ITS 2010 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

PADUA, 20 June 2011

At 3.30 this afternoon there will be a meeting at the Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua on 'Trading in the North-East: a rôle for immigrants running businesses which promote growth in the local economy'.

For some time immigration has been important for business growth in the Veneto region, guaranteeing the availability of an abundance of manpower. Well-educated immigrants prefer however to be self-employed, whereby they can earn more than by working for someone else because when employed to do the same job their wages are approximately 60% of those of an Italian. In this way immigrants not only provide work for themselves but are also in a position to do so for others.

The importance of Immigration and Enterprise is proved by the figures: immigrants contribute 9.5% to Italian GDP and they pay €5bn a year to the INPS in pension contributions but receive very little in pension benefits since most of them are young.

Analysis of the phenomenon shows that immigrants run 165,000 businesses in Italy (Ministry of Employment figures), 83,758 of them in the industrial sector (50.6% of the total). Construction accounts for a large number of them (4 out of 10 businesses managed by immigrants, mainly from eastern Europe), followed by textiles, clothing and footwear, led by the Chinese.

The service sector, with 77,515 businesses (46.9%), contains a prevalence of commercial businesses.

How does our system of representing entrepreneurs respond to this situation? What services does the financial system provide for them? How are they dealt with by public bodies and other organizations?

Among the contributors to the discussion will be **Daniele Marini**, Professor of Industrial Sociology and Organizational Systems at the University of Padua; **Sergio Rosato**, General Manager of Veneto Lavoro; **Franca Porto**, Regional



Secretary of the CISL (Italian Federation of Trades Union) and **Luigi Fiorot**, Head of Industrial Relations of CNA Veneto (National Confederation of Craftsmen).

The discussion will be chaired by **Pierluigi Stefanini**, Chairman of the Unipol Group.

Unipol Group's 2010 Sustainability Report will also be distributed at the meeting.

Unipol's commitment to sustainability is linked to its business activities, its range of products and the way it does business and is based on the concept of joint responsibility for building a sustainable and fair future. Therefore having produced a Sustainability Report since 1993 the Unipol Group has drawn up a Sustainability Plan for the three-year period 2010-2012 and integrated it into its Business Plan in order to help the Company to make the appropriate strategic choices and take the appropriate action.

"Taking sustainability into account when making strategic decisions", states the Chairman, Pierluigi Stefanini, "has become a feature of the policies and entrepreneurial strategy of the entire Unipol Group.

We want to continue to use our modern entrepreneurial knowledge and skills to fulfil the requirements of families, businesses and working people, in step with the times and welcoming new ideas and new trends."

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Sustainability

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