PRESS RELEASE

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ITALIAN BRAIN DRAIN

A colloquium on "brain-drain" to be hold in Cambridge, on 2 March 2002, with the support of the Italian Embassy in the UK and the London and Edinburgh Italian Cultural Institutes

The Cambridge University Italian Society (CUITSOC) and the Italian Ph.D. Association (ADI-Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di Ricerca Italiani) will hold a joint workshop to discuss the brain drain and brain-circulation phenomena. The event will be the 2nd March 2002, from 3 to 6 pm in the Winstanley Lecture Theatre of Trinity College, Cambridge.

The aim of this workshop is to stimulate a debate on how efficient policies can be set forth to reverse the brain drain, particularly of Italian graduates from Italy, and reach an effective brain circulation, whereby Italy attracts top scientists from the rest of the world. An effective brain mobility is essential to the cultural and scientific progress of any country. The final objective would be to change Italy’s present status of “exporter” of intellectual resources into “importer” of "brains".

In this workshop several Italian scientists working in the United Kingdom will speak about their experiences. The focus of the meeting will be the first international presentation of the ADI’s successful book "Cervelli in Fuga-Brains on the Run".

“ADI welcomes CUITSOC’s invitation to Cambridge” - affirmed Flaminia Saccà, ADI’s national secretary - “because this workshop represents a further occasion to discuss our long-pursued objectives: the improvement of opportunities for young Italian scientists and the creation of a quality-based university system in Italy”.

“Italy continuously offers its own intellectual resources as a ‘gift’ to other states” - maintains Andrea Ferrari, the chair of the Cambridge workshop - “and is still unable to become a pole of attraction for those who wish to pursue top class research, be it in academia or in industry. With the Cambridge meeting we hope to spark a debate on how to reach an efficient brain-circulation in our country”.

Official Website of the Cambridge Workshop: http://www.cervelliinfuga.it/cambridge/

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP

Saturday, 2 March 2002, 3.00 p.m - 6.00 pm
Winstanley Lecture Theatre, Trinity College, Cambridge

3.00 Introduction: Dr Andrea Ferrari, CUITSOC

3.20 - 4.00: Experiences:
- Prof. Roberto Cipolla, Jesus College, Cambridge
- Prof. Piero Migliorato, Trinity college, Cambridge
- Dr Franco Cacialli, University College London
4.00: Brains on the Run:
4.00: Brains on the Run - Stories of Italian Researchers fled abroad, Mr Augusto Palombini, "Cervelli in Fuga", Editor.
4.20: Brain drain vs brains circulation, Dr Flaminia Saccà, ADI national secretary
5.00: Discussion
5.20: Summary and conclusions: Prof. Salvatore Aloj, scientific attaché, Italian Embassy
5.30: Tea, Coffee and biscuits

7.00 for 7.30: conference dinner, the Hall, Jesus College, Cambridge.

Cambridge University Italian Society (CUTSOC) Web Site: www.cam.ac.uk/societies/italian

The Cambridge University Italian Society comprises students, academics and workers in the Cambridge area interested in Italian culture, politics and society. It is an official Cambridge University Society and has 1300 subscribers to its mailing list and 200 members. It is led by a committee of students and senior members elected annually. CUTSOC organises events ranging from seminars to parties. In particular, exponents of the Italian intellectual, social and political arena are invited every year by CUTSOC to give lectures in Cambridge.

Italian Ph.D. Association (ADI-Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di Ricerca Italiani)
web sites: www.dottorato.it , www.cervelliinfuga.it/

ADI represents Italian Ph.D. holders and post-graduate students. ADI was founded in January 1998 to provide mutual help and support among its members, including those studying and working abroad. The need for such an association in Italy stems from the fact that the Ph.D. was established in Italy only a few years ago. Italian industries and society still do not understand the added value of the postgraduate studies, by way of contrast to what happens in most other countries and certainly in the United Kingdom. The aim of ADI is to promote the Ph.D. in Italian society as a whole and the professional placement of Ph.D. holders. ADI has 1000 members and 2000 subscribers to the mailing list. ADI published the book "Cervelli in Fuga-Brains on the Run" in 2000. This pamphlet, assessing the major problems in the Italian University and research system, had great impact in both Italian academia and in the political arena and was given great resonance by the media.