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PRESS RELEASE

Italy grants European University Institute use of Palazzo Buontalenti in Florence, Italy.

Italy's Undersecretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Guglielmo Picchi, visited the Institute on Friday 19 October to sign an addendum to the Site Agreement held between Italy and the Institute. The addendum adds Palazzo Buontalenti, an historic building located in the centre of Florence, to the EUI's campus.

The Honourable Picchi signed the agreement together with EUI President Renaud Dehousse and Mr Stefano Lombardi, Director of the Agenzia del Demanio for Tuscany and Umbria.

Italy, as host to the European University Institute, generously provides for the buildings that house the EUI's activities.

Palazzo Buontalenti, following renovation, will be the home of the School of Transnational Governance (STG), now located in the Badia Fiesolana. Launched in 2017, the STG offers high-level executive training programmes, hosts a fellowship programme, and conducts policy dialogues on issues of transnational governance. A masters programme will start in 2020. Its work strengthens the international dimension of the Institute's activities, and will bring leading actors in governance to Florence from around the world.

The Honorable Picchi expressed his satisfaction at signing this agreement, noting that it represents a concrete example of Italy's commitment to higher education. 'Italy is pleased to share its patrimony for such an important project.' 'We are opening up a space that has been empty for far too long. In the EUI's School of Transnational Governance, we have a new school to prepare leaders for the new struggles they face. It takes training and dialogue to confront today's issues, it is right to support this initiative, and I wish it the greatest success.'

Professor Renaud Dehousse, President of the EUI, expressed the profound gratitude the Institute and its contracting states feel towards Italy for their continued support of the EUI's activities. 'This agreement allows to start a new school, and it brings us even closer to the citizens of Florence. Our presence there will hopefully allow us to further develop the citizen dialogue and discussion on European themes, which is deeply needed.'

About the European University Institute

The European University Institute was set up in 1972 by the six founding member states of the then European Communities. Its aim is to provide advanced academic training for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, and to foster research in fields of particular relevance for the development of Europe. With 23 contracting states, the Institute hosts around 1000 academic members in its departments of Economics, History, Law, and Political and Social Sciences; the Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies; the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies; the School of Transnational Governance; and the Historical Archives of the European Union.

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