



## **“The prophecy makes history- 20 years of the Economy of Communion”**

*Going beyond the crisis of our globalised economy towards a more just and solidarity-based society*

*Entrepreneurs, employees and academics from 40 countries meet in San Paolo - Brazil*

29 May 2011- 9:30 am - 6 pm (local time)

Auditório Simon Bolivar - Memorial da América Latina

The Economy of Communion is turning 20 and, to commemorate this important anniversary, EoC's journey so far (to fight poverty and work for a more fraternal and solidarity-based society) will be presented in its birthplace, San Paolo, Brazil. **“The prophecy makes history: 20 years of the Economy of Communion”** is the title of the international convention that will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> May from 9:30 am – 6 pm local time.

Over 1500 entrepreneurs, employees, academics and public figures from 37 countries and 4 continents are expected to arrive for the event. The countries represented include: USA, Canada, Korea, Philippines, France, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ivory Coast and Nigeria. Professor Riccardo Abramovay (USPI – University of San Paolo) expert on fair trade, Walter Barelli (Unicamp Campinas) former Minister of Labour and Federal Deputy and Cardinal Hummes, former Archbishop of San Paolo and Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy are amongst the civil and religious leaders due to participate.

The Economy of Communion (EoC) was inspired by Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Focolare Movement, and took life on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1991 during one of her visits to Brazil. Based on a new style of economic behaviour, the 800 EoC companies present throughout all 5 continents, are committed to creating new wealth and new jobs whilst sharing their profits in three parts: for the development of the company, for the promotion of a culture of communion and for the less-advantaged. The EoC project generates great interest on an academic level: 300 theses have been written by university students around the world and Chiara Lubich received honorary degrees from the Catholic University of Pernambuco (Brazil) in 1998 and from the Catholic University of Milan in 1999.

The convention will be a chance to evaluate the first 20 years of the Economy of Communion and to look out at the prospects for the next 20 years. In the light of today's economic scenario the EoC's founding ideas, the concretisation of the project, the “EoC's identity card” and the “San Paolo 2011 Message” will be presented.

The event is promoted by EoC's international commission and will be chaired by Luigino Bruni, professor in Political Economics and author of numerous publications on the EoC. *“Amidst attempts to come out of the first major crisis of our globalised economy a message*

*rings strong and clear: this economy creates enormous wealth, but it also produces new costs- not least of which an ever greater social imbalance. Imbalance provokes growing intolerance worldwide. Communion and social justice and are becoming dominant themes of the new economy”, states Bruni. .*

Speakers at the convention include: **Professor Rubens Ricupero**, former Deputy-Secretary of the United Nations, General Secretary of UNCTAD and Minister for Finance and the Environment in the Brazilian Federal Government; **Professor Stefano Zamagni**, Professor of Economics at the University of Bologna (Italy) and of International Economics in the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Johns Hopkins University (USA); professor **Vera Araújo**, sociologist and coordinator of “Social One”, an international group of sociologists and scholars of social services and development.

**In the days leading up to the event the EoC’s International Assembly, entitled “Protagonists today of a new economy” will take place from 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> May in the Focolare’s little town near San Paolo. 600 entrepreneurs, employees, academics and students involved in the project are due to arrive. There will be three panel discussions- Entrepreneur and Business, Poverty and Development, Institutional Aspects and Cultural Dimensions- enriched with life experiences and concrete examples of good practice. The panel discussions will be followed by working groups, moments of dialogue, round table discussions, and a visit to the nearby Economy of Communion Industrial Park.**

Both events can be followed on: [www.edc-online.org](http://www.edc-online.org)

***For more information:***

[www.edc2011.info](http://www.edc2011.info)

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***Attached:***

- Information sheet on the Economy of Communion
- programme of the convention “The prophecy makes history: 20 years of the Economy of Communion”

***More material is available on:*** [www.focolare.org/it/area-press-focus/](http://www.focolare.org/it/area-press-focus/)

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