



## **DELEGATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF FLORENCE STARTING FROM THE 1st JANUARY 2014**

### **JANUARY 2014**

1. **11/01** Welcome to institutional Italian guests of the Mayor and guided tour to the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio, on the occasion of the opening of Pitti Uomo.
2. **21/01/** Institutional Welcome to H.E. Marin Raykov, Ambassador of Bulgaria, given by the Vice Mayor, after the gifts exchange guided tour to the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio.
3. **25/01:** Welcome by Deputy Mayor Sara Biagiotti, to Mr. Ed Hubennette, Area Vice President U.K. and Ireland of Marriott Hotels Int. Ltd., accompanied by Mr. Gabriele Bertaccini of Il Tocco Company. Guided tour to the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio.

### **FEBRUARY 2014**

4. **3/02:** Institutional welcome to Mr. H.E. August Parengkuan, Ambassador of Indonesia in Italy, accompanied by avv. Jacopo Cappuccio, given by the vice Mayor Stefania Saccardi and guided tour to the Quartieri monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio (see *photogallery*).
5. **11/02** Welcome to the Minister of Culture of Angola accompanied by the Ambassador of Angola in Italy and by a delegation of Directors and officers of the Ministry of Culture. Visit to the Quartieri monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio and to the Uffizi Gallery.
6. **11/02** Evening guided tour to 25 guests (tour operators) of the Chamber of Commerce of Florence to the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio.
7. **24/02** Guided tour to the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio and to the Arnolfo Tower to a group of 10 female students of the German city of Darmstadt twinned with the Province of Florence.
8. **27/02** Institutional welcome to Mr. Peter Dettmar, General Consul of Germany, accompanied by his secretary Mrs. Elke Arnold, the Honorary Consul of Florence, and Mrs. Renate Wendt, given by the Deputy Mayor Mr. Sergio Givone.

### **MARCH 2014**

9. **4-5-6-7/03** Visit to Florence of Ms. Charlotte Kedslie, International Officer, External Relations of the City of Edinburgh and meetings with Carlo Francini, P.O. UNESCO City of Florence, Lucia De Siervo, Department of Culture Tourism and Sport, and Paolo Pantanella, Chief Secretary of Deputy for Economic Development, Tourism, Labour policies, Metropolitan City, Sara Biagiotti to focus on ideas about the way to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning Agreement between the two cities. Some visits of the historical center of Florence were organized for the Scottish officer along with

guided tours of Palazzo Vecchio, the Church of Santa Maria Novella, the Uffizi Gallery and the Boboli Garden.

10. **8/03** Welcome to H.E. Nome Temba Tambo, Ambassador of South Africa in Italy. Visit of the Quartieri Monumentali and assistance during the meeting with Vice Mayor Dario Nardella, the Consul of the South African Republic in Florence, Riccardo Sarra, the President of the Mandela Forum, Massimo Gramigni, focused on the arrangement of the initiatives to be held in Florence on the occasion of the Mandela Day.
11. **27/03** Welcome to professor Gia Xinmin, member of the Advisory Committee for State Informatization and Vice President of the Internet Society of China, accompanied by members of the Digital Information Systems of China, in Palazzo Vecchio.

#### **APRIL 2014**

12. **3/04** Guided tour of the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio to a group of students from a college of the Isle of Tenerife (Spain), on a visit in Florence for an exchange with the Institute Gramsci.
13. **3/04** Guided tour of the Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio and to the Arnolfo Tower to a group of partners of an European project on smart cities from the cities of Bristol, Santander and Geneva.
14. **24/04** Guided Tour of the Quartieri Monumentali of the Palazzo Vecchio to Ms. O Sukyoung, Director of the Department of Cultural Traditions and Mr. Choi Woojung, Staff / curator of the Department of Cultural Traditions of the friend city Jeonju (Korea), accompanied by Riccardo Gelli, President of Taegukgi Tuscany and Director of the Florence Korea Film Festival, in Florence for meetings with the staff of the *Mostra dell'Artigianato* (Artex). The visit was followed by a meeting (Sala degli Otto, *see photo*) with the Director of Economic Promotion, Mr. Simone Tani. The delegation was interested in developing exchanges of experiences in the craft sector (Jeonju is famous for the production of rice paper and fans). The Director Tani proposed the delegation the possibility to exhibit some typical Korean products at the Vecchio Conventino (SAM) with its 25 workshops, a space designed for laboratories, workshops and training activities as well as for promotion and marketing of handicrafts (*see photo gallery*).

#### **MAY 2014**

15. **13/05** Welcome of the President of the Commission Board for Peace, Human Rights, Solidarity and International Relations, Susanna Agostini to a delegation from the Moroccan Red Crescent of the city of Mehdia ( Kenitra ) . The group, accompanied by some Red Cross workers and the Chairman of the Local Committee of the Red Cross in Florence, Frederick Rose, is in Tuscany for 7 days for an exchange training organized by the Italian sister. Thanks to the preparation of the field of civil protection for a period of four days a group of operators of the Red Crescent will discuss with colleagues from the Red Cross on fielding practices relevant to disaster response. The camp, Spring stage 2014 will see the participation of 130 players from all over Italy and Morocco and allow you to evaluate the specific training needs of the Crescent Mehdia The project, approved at national level by the Red Cross, also aims to initiate a long term partnership with its sister Moroccan and activate periodic exchanges and targeted training with particular attention to young people. E ' followed by a guided tour of the Monumental Quarters and the tower of the Palazzo Vecchio Arnolfo (*see photo gallery*).
16. **15/05** Welcome of the President of the Commission Board for Peace, Human Rights, Solidarity and International Relations, Susanna Agostini to a delegation of the Leadership Academy of Whangarei (New Zealand) composed of a group of cadets of the Academy (students between 14 to 17 years), led by Mr. Ken Tipene, commander of the Military Academy and accompanied by some of the families of the soldiers of the famous 28th Maori Battalion in Italy for the 70th Commemoration Battle of Cassino. The delegation's mission was to retrace the footsteps of the famous 28th Maori Battalion who fought alongside the Allies during WWII to liberate Italy in 1944. They presented a *taonga* to the city of Florence in support of the Shared Memory Agreement signed in 2011 in Palazzo Vecchio by the City of

17. Florence and Maori Battalion veterans. The Academy cadets performed several traditional Maori songs as well as *the haka*, the Maori suggestive dance. The meeting ended with a visit to the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio (*see photo gallery*).
18. **30/05** Guided tour to the Monumental Quarters to a delegation of 30 people from the district of Perg in Upper Austria, led by the mayor of Mauthausen, with which Florence is bound by a pact of brotherhood. Also present the mayor of St. Georgen / Gusen. The delegation was accompanied by Claudia Heimes, Councillor for Education, Educational Services and Equal Opportunities of the municipality of Vinci.

#### **JUNE 2014**

19. **13/06** Guided Tour of the Quartieri Monumentale of Palazzo Vecchio and of the Arnolfo Tower to a group of about 20 participants in an international meeting scheduled for June 12 to 14, 2014 in Florence, in the framework of the European project Papillon Grundtvig (adult education - 2012-1 -EN2-GRU06-37707-1) organized by the Library of Peace, coordinator partner of the project.

#### **JULY 2014**

20. **3/07** The Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani represented the city Administration at the 238° Anniversary of the American Independence at New York University, Villa La Pietra.
21. **4/07** Welcome (*Sala degli Otto*) by the city councillor Andrea Ceccarelli to two city councilors of the city of Gifu, friend city of Florence, Mr. Tsu Mr. Ohno and Mr. Osamu Hirose, who delivered a letter from the Mayor of Gifu, Mr. Shigemitsu Hosoe, addressed to Mayor Nardella, mentioning the 35th Anniversary of the Pact of Friendship renewed in 2013. During the meeting the Japanese city councilors proposed new exchange projects between the Gifu female fashion university and Polimoda in Florence, including new initiatives and projects in the sport area. A guided tour of the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio followed.
22. **14/07** The Consul of France, Isabelle Malletz, invited Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani to the French national holiday at the French Institute of Florence in piazza Ognissanti.
23. **15/07** On the occasion of the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers and Secretaries of State for Development, Councillor Mantovani took part in the plenary session at the Salone de' Cinquecento. Photo with the delegation heads at the Loggia dei Lanzi.
24. **17/07** Guided Tour of Quartieri Monumentali of Palazzo Vecchio and Arnolfo Tower to the President of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), Dr. S. Ary Graca, and the President of the National Volleyball Federation, Carlo Magri, in Florence for the World Volleyball League (Final Six) at the Mandela Forum.
25. **18/07** Guided tour of the Salone de 'Cinquecento to Mr. Waheeb Al Attar, Chief Executive of NBAD (National Bank of Aby Dhabi - United Arab Emirates) and President of ADAMCO Capital, at the end of the meeting (Sala Incontri) with the Director of the Department of Culture, Dr. Bartoli and Dr. Nesi, curator of the Bardini Museum, Basilica del Carmine, and Brancacci Chapel.
26. **21/07** The President of the Peace Commission, Serena Perini welcomed a group of 24 people, including 12 young Pojoaque Hoop Dancers from New Mexico (USA), accompanied by their teacher Nakotah LaRance, six times Hoop Dancer world champion and by Governor George Rivera, in Florence after touring Europe (France and Switzerland). The project's aim is educational: the young dancers learn the tribal culture of the Tewa pueblos of New Mexico to revitalize and promote it internationally. After a short performance in the Dogana Courtyard of Palazzo Vecchio, a guided visit of the Museum followed (*see photo gallery*).

## AUGUST 2014

27. **1/08** Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani met the ambassador of Italy in the Republic of Ghana and Togo, the Florentine Laura Carpini, who maintained his residence in the town where she grew up. During the meeting the ambassador highlighted the characteristic aspects of Ghana and Togo and stressed that Ghana is a country outstanding among the African countries for the pursuit of peace and coexistence of different religions; it is homeland to a great symbol of peace like Kofi Annan, the historic United Nations Secretary and Nobel Prize for Peace. Ghana is a country devoted to peace, a theme dear to the city of La Pira, as it is one of the leading African countries for contributions of troops for peace-keeping forces to the UN International which is also training center. This year the government of Ghana has the presidency of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, which includes 15 African countries (*see Highlights*).

## SEPTEMBER 2014

28. **7/09** Participation of Councillor Mantovani at the gala dinner in the Salone de' Cinquecento in Palazzo Vecchio for the Celebrity Fight Night.
29. **18/09** Welcome (Sala di Clemente VII) of Mayor Nardella to the Ambassador of Taiwan (Republic of China), SE Stanley Kao. The Taiwanese Ambassador outlined the economic aspects of his country and Taiwan investments on the Italian territory (above all in the in the field of luxury hotels). Italy is the fourth largest trading partner of Taiwan, which is a strategic bridge between the USA and China. The island enjoys a stable political situation and an excellent logistics infrastructure. Mayor Nardella took the opportunity to invite the Mayor of Taipei – by way of the Ambassador of Taiwan – to the Conference of the Mayors for Peace scheduled for October 2015 in Palazzo Vecchio. In turn, the Ambassador Kao invited the mayor of Florence to make a stop in Taipei during his next mission in China. Present at the meeting: the Ambassador's wife, the Diplomatic Officer, How-wei Tsao and Mrs Ileri (*see photo gallery*).
30. **23/09** Technical meeting in the Hall of Firenze Capitale of the Director of the Office of the Council, Roberto Caselli and a delegation of five senior members of the CAG Chinese (Chinese Academy of Governance) accompanied by senior officials of the SNA, the National School of the Administration Bureau Council of Ministers, as part of the exchange of experiences and knowledge between public administrations.
31. **From 23 to 30/09** Institutional mission in Nanjing of Councillor Mantovani at the 2014 World Historical and Cultural Cities. Summary of the program: Opening ceremony of the International Forum of Mayors and various panel discussions on historic town's heritage site. Performance at the Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum Music Terrace. Meeting and dinner with VIP guests offered by the city of Nanjing. Saturday, September 27, 2014 visit to the cultural. The evening opening of the festival of culture and art of Nanjing (*see Highlights and photo gallery*).
32. **30/09** Councillor Mantovani meets the Ambassador of Colombia together with Consul Gianni Lusena during an official dinner.

## OCTOBER 2014

33. **2/10** On the occasion of the World Forum Unesco, the Filipino Community Choir of St. Barnabas has performed at the Guelph palace. The councillor to International Relations Nicoletta Mantovani chaired the event along with the Consul Fabio Fanfani and many representatives of the Filipino community led by the President of the Confederation of the Filipino Community in Tuscany Divine Capalad (*see Highlights and photo gallery*). In the same day, the commissioner Mantovani welcomed the Ambassador to Italy Unesco SE Vincenza Lomonaco (*see photo gallery*).
34. **17/10** Meeting Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani with the representative of the City of Turku (Finland) Akkanen Mika, who accompanied the Conservatory Chamber Choir of

- Turku, Florence and Sesto Fiorentino for performances with the choir Sesto in beautiful places and great historical and artistic importance of the two municipalities. The project comparison and cultural exchange is supported by the Honorary Consulate of Finland and sponsored by the municipalities of Florence and Sesto Fiorentino (see gallery).
35. **20/10** Meeting with Dr. Suzuyo Hashimoto of Kyoto University, who deals the inclusion of disabled people in the world of school and work, and visit to the Trisomy 21 Association.
  36. **20/10** Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani met with the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Italy, Malta and San Marino, SE Giancarlo Kessler, accompanied by the Swiss consul in Tuscany Edgar Kraft. The issues addressed in the meeting: promoting Switzerland in Florence also through the joint cultural initiatives and related themes in light of the Expo 2015 (see gallery).
  37. **23/10** Meeting in the Florence Capital Room of the delegation of the University of Taipei (Taiwan) with Dr. Alba Cortecci, head of the Pedagogical Coordination, to discuss issues relating to early childhood education and child care. In the afternoon visit to the Asilo Nido Gallo Cristallo. (See photo gallery).
  38. **24/10** Meeting in the Hall of Clement VII of mayor Nardella with the president of the province of Florence, Andrea Barducci and the president of the rural district / province of Darmstadt-Dieburg, Klaus Peter Schellhaas, accompanied by Baerbel Hille (Office of the rural District). The province of Florence is linked by a twinning agreement to the administrative district of Darmstadt-Dieburg (belonging to the Land of Hessen) since 2005 and many municipalities in the province of Florence are twinned with the same number of municipalities in the province of Darmstadt-Dieburg, economically very wealthy and dynamic. Darmstadt, in particular, also known as the city of science, is the seat of the ESA (European Space Agency) as well as major companies in the chemical-pharmaceutical industry. Mayor Nardella has expressed much interest in continuing the relationship and the many initiatives with the province of Darmstadt-Dieburg also in view of the metropolitan city (*see photo gallery*).
  39. **30/10** Councillor to international relations and cooperation Nicoletta Mantovani met the Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hon. Gaber Asfour, in Palazzo Vecchio. A visit of the Minister to the National Archaeological Museum of Florence followed: the museum is home to a rich collection of artefacts and relics of the ancient Egyptian civilization. The Egyptian Minister was welcomed by the superintendent of archaeological heritage of Tuscany, Andrea Pessina. In August 2015, the city will host the XI International Congress of Egyptology, the first congress taking place in Italy since 2008. In Florence are expected hundreds of scholars from all over the world.

#### **NOVEMBER 2014**

40. **5/11** Institutional welcome to a delegation of students from the Master of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Scutari, along with teachers and secretaries, guest of the President of the City Council and guided tour of the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio.
41. **10/11** Guided tour of the museum of Palazzo Vecchio to the Director to sustainable development and communication of SUEZ Environment of Paris, Frédérique Raoult and her husband.
42. **11/11** Institutional welcome to Mr John Smith, president of the Board of Directors of Global Philadelphia, received by Carlo Francini - UNESCO office of the Municipality of Florence. Philadelphia discussed about the application for nomination of UNESCO World Heritage Site and inclusion in the tentative list.
43. **11/11** As part of the twinning with the city of Riga (Latvia), at the request of Prof. Milan, University of Florence, guided tour of the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio and the Tower of Arnolfo to the Rector of the University of the Technical University of Riga, prof. Leonids Ribikis accompanied by prof. Yuri Dekthyar and Janis Grundspenkis (*see photo gallery*).
44. **27/11** Technical table in the Hall of Eight with a delegation of directors of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of South Korea and the Department of Cooperatives of Korea Social Enterprise Promotion Agency on the subject of social cooperatives at the

presence of Mr. Alessandro Salvi, Director of Youth and Family Service of the Municipality of the City of Florence.

45. **28/11** Meeting between Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani with Jefferson Gallego Figueredo - coordinator of the education strategy corporacion viva la ciudadania (Colombia), Katherine Escobar Higuera - reference of the project for foro valle (Colombia), Marzia Frediani - vice president of Arci territorial Committee, Manfredi Lo Sauro - coordinator of the activities of international solidarity and cooperation of Arci territorial committee of Florence as part of the international cooperation project "Women organized for the construction of a society of peace in Colombia." The meeting was followed by a guided tour of the Museum of Palazzo Vecchio and the Tower of Arnolfo.

#### **DECEMBER 2014**

46. **1/12** Councillor Nicoletta Mantovani met a delegation composed of the Honorary Consul of Albania in Pistoia Overi Gianni Simone, the director of the Agency of the Albanian tourism Julinda Dhame, the director of the legalization of Albanian territory Artan Lame. Also present was Elhaida Dani, Albanian singer and winner of the first edition of The Voice of Italy, that yesterday performed in Pistoia at the opening of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania. The meeting was also attended by the director of the Urban Planning Department of the Municipality of Florence, Domenico Palladino who illustrated the lines of action of the Administration on planning and protection of the territory, including the Structural Plan " zero volumes." The international talks of councillor Mantovani continued on the same day with the meetings with the consular representations of Croatia and Tunisia (*see photogallery*).