Minutes of the London Comites session held on 16 March 2023 in "hybrid" format:

A) in attendance at the premises of the Italian Church of San Pietro located in 136 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5DL;

B) remotely, with the possibility for the Councillors to participate in the discussion in real time, via electronic connection to the online platform "Zoom", meeting no. 859 2987 4219.

The meeting opens at 18.10. The session is chaired by the President Alessandro Gaglione and Chiara Cerovac acts as Secretary.

The following Councillors participate in attendance:

1 Alessandro Gaglione

2 Mike Petretta

3 Luigi Bille'

4 Tony Martorana

5 Nicola Del Basso

The following Councillors are connected via zoom:

6 Chiara Cerovac

7 Elena Remigi

8 Elio Alberti

9 Anna Cambiaggi

10 Livia Grasso

11 Luciano Rapa

12 Francesca Doria

13 Dimitri Scarlato

14 Vincenzo Loggia

15 Rino Nola

16 Germana Canzi

17 Federico Lago

Excused absent:

18 Golam Maula Tipu

The CGIE Councillor Giannino D'Angelo is also connected remotely. Attached to these minutes is a screenshot showing the attendance of the Councillors, as specified above.

The Chairman ascertains and has it ascertained that the quorum required by law is present and, therefore, declares the meeting validly constituted and capable of resolving on the following:

Agenda;

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous session.

2. Participation of the Comites in the appointments for the issuance of passports.

3. Update on ongoing projects and proposed new projects: - presentation of the study conducted by Dr. Antonsich; - update on the SPID project; - update on the Compitaly project; - webinar update on the transition from pre-settled to settled status; - update on webinals on multilingualism; - 3 webinars/interviews with experts on the following topics: working visa, student visa, summary of the immigration system in the UK; - Co-organization of the event “Marcello Goes to London - Italian Film Screenings in London”; - Discussion on the project relating to a concert with an Italian orchestra.

4. Awareness campaign on the non-compulsory payment to make an appointment at the Consulate;

5. Letter from Woking Consular Agency regarding receipt of biometric fingerprint machine.

6. Miscellaneous and other matters.

The Chairman then opens the discussion on the items on the agenda for the day.

1) With regard to the first item on the agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting are unanimously approved.

2) Subsequently, the second item on the agenda is discussed. The President informs the assembly that a meeting was held in the Consulate, which was attended by representatives of the Patronati and, representing Comites in London, by the President himself. The Consulate has proposed periodic collaboration by the Patronati and the Comites (generally monthly) regarding the procedure for issuing passports: a Consulate Official, equipped with a fingerprint scanner, will be helped/assisted by one or more volunteers from Comites or Patronati. The four Patronages have given their availability, it must now be decided whether Comites also wants to participate, making its headquarters and its Secretariat organization available. During the discussion, the Councillors showed themselves in favour of the initiative. L. Rapa considers this service very useful, but proposes Saturday as a day, to facilitate those who work during the week and do not have possibility to go to renew the passport on the other days. After extensive and exhaustive discussion, the vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: unanimous

Abstained: none

3) At this point the President passes over to A.Cambiaggi, who informs the assembly that Dr. Antonsich's study is about to end and the same asks the Comites if it is possible to find a location where to present it. Furthermore, regarding the SPID project, it has been paused as there will be changes soon. In this regard, R. Nola points out that SPID has been blocked for Italians who have requested it with a non-Italian passport. E. Remigi informs the assembly that the webinar on the transition from pre to settled status has currently been suspended. In relation to the Complitaly Project (Report from the Italian Community), the councillors Rapa, Canzi, Loggia of the Comites of London have offered to be part of the working group, which will be joined by representatives of the other Comites. Furthermore, a meeting was held with Mirko Ricci who raised two questions:

1. considering the very low cost he calculated for Comites, he asked to be able to find external support and subsidies from third parties, thanking them in the credits. Furthermore, affirming the ownership of the report by Comites of London, he asked if it is possible, in cases where eventually it will be possible to sell the rights to third parties, to divide the proceeds of the exploitation of the rights at 50% between Comites of London and Complitaly. The collaboration agreement is in preparation.
2. The second question concerns the methods of financing the work. Mirko Ricci asks to be able to have 50% upon signing the contract and the remaining 50% before starting filming. D. Scarlato declares himself in favour of advance payment but, with regard to the question of rights, advises preparing individual contracts for each of the Comites in order to guarantee a fair distribution of contributions. Only N. Del Basso declares himself not in favour of advance payment while all the other Councillors are in favour and authorise the President to proceed in this direction and, precisely, 50% upon signing the contract and the remaining 50% before starting filming. Furthermore, all the Councillors are in favour of a potential 50% division (between Comites of London and Complitaly) of the right to exploit the Report economically) as well as the possibility for Complitaly to recover external supports and subsidies from third parties, thanking them in the titles of tail. Regarding the cycle of Webinars on multilingualism, F. Doria informs the assembly that the next webinar will be held on April 19 and will have as its theme the courses organised by SIAL. In November, however, a linguistic-cultural event will be organised. A. Cambiaggi suggests that it is also necessary to talk about other realities and not just SIAL and that the next webinar should not be focused only on promoting SIAL. Subsequently, L. Grasso speaks and would like to organize 3 webinars focused on the working visa, student visa and immigration system in the UK but needs some time to understand how to work it out as it seems that the Home Office is making changes to the methods of requesting them. At the moment, therefore, the project is in stand-by. Subsequently, regarding the event "Marcello Goes to London", D. Scarlato asks if the Comites is willing to support, financially, this event as per the request received from the organisers. A. Gaglione declares himself in favour, but informs the Councillors that at the moment the Comites has not yet received confirmation of the allocation of the ordinary funding, by the Ministry, for the current year. V. Loggia, as Treasurer, advises to take time as there are not enough funds on the ordinary loan account. Approval is proposed, provided that there are funds to support the project. A vote was then taken by show of hands.

In favour: A. Gaglione, D. Scarlato, F. Doria, F. Lago, L. Grasso, E. Remigi. E. Alberti, R.Nola, A.Cambiaggi, G.Canzi, N.Dal Basso, T.Martorana, V. Loggia, M. Petretta. Abstentions: C.Cerovac, L. Bille', L.Rapa.

Against: none.

It is therefore approved, provided that there are funds to support the project. Subsequently, regarding the project relating to a concert held by an Italian orchestra, E. Remigi spoke with Antonio Morabito who would like to seek Italian orchestra players to create an orchestra that will perform in the coming months. D. Scarlato adds that it would be a project extended to provide information and support young musicians. The Councillors consider the project interesting and will discuss it again when there is further information.

1. At this point, V. Loggia has the word, and underlines that the on-line booking service (Prenot@mi) does not work: there are never any appointments available, neither short-term nor long-term. There are people who have been trying to make an appointment for months, to no avail. E. Alberti informs the assembly that there are agencies that charge substantial sums to make appointments at the Consulate. The service is free, the information that consular services are free must be advised and dispersed by Comites. Furthermore, the same proposes that the fingerprints that are collected to apply for a passport can also be used for identity cards. The working group that deals with consular services will forward an e-mail to the Consuls to inform them of the above.
2. Domenico Minardi, Consular Agent in Woking, sent a letter of thanks to Comites for the support to the Consular Agency of Woking, in obtaining the biometric fingerprint machine.
3. Miscellaneous: the majority of the Councillors agree in discussing the release of funding in favour of the Italian press abroad, presented by the publisher of "La Notizia", Salvatore Mancuso. At the end of the discussion, we proceed with the vote (for the release of the opinion) by show of hands.

In favour: A. Gaglione, C. Cerovac, E. Alberti, F. Doria, L.Rapa, L.Bille', F.Lago, R.Nola, M.Petretta, T.Martorana, N.Del Basso, V. Loggia, L. Grasso.   
  
Abstentions: E. Remigi, D. Scarlato, A. Cambiaggi, G. Canzi.   
Against: none.

The comittee, therefore, expresses a favorable opinion on the request for funding in favour of the Italian press abroad, presented by the publisher of "La Notizia", Salvatore Mancuso.

Finally, again in the context of "Miscellaneous and Possible", the document presented by L. Bille on the Territorial Desks presented as CGIE for the Consulate General and Comites in London is discussed. The document is nothing more than an analysis that embraces the entire district, for the use of the honorary offices and of the Comites for possible use by the Consulate General of all the honorary offices scattered in the district of the London Comites in the 'territorial provision of passport and identity card renewal services', or rather a district macro-analysis of the representations, their distribution and their possible effective and efficient use. The Councillors take note of it. At this point, the Chairman, having exhausted the items on the agenda, declares the meeting closed at 20.20.

The President

**Alessandro Gaglione**

The Secretary

**Chiara Cerovac**