

The atmosphere of the seminar

“The Club of Florence is a sort of modern version of the Medici Neo-Platonic Academy.”

“It produces the Medici Effect: creativity that results from breaking down barriers among various disciplines, and should continue to follow a universal approach – think out of the box.”

“The discussions were generally interesting and well led, with good contributions.”

“I felt like in University; I have got a lot to think about, a lot I have to read. Finally, I learnt many new aspects and got to know some brilliant people.”

“I learnt a lot.”

The subject of the seminar

“The theme of the seminar and the programme were very very inspirational. Most of the presentations brought new ideas, encouraged new thinking about 'old problems'.”

“I couldn't see any clear relation between the title of the seminar, the programme and the interventions.
I was struck by the fact that only one religious denominational viewpoint was represented in the debate.”

“From my viewpoint the whole event was too philosophical and academic and paid too little attention to current, practical issues.”

“I very much enjoyed the subjects and the discussions.”

Sustainability

“One of the key drivers should be to restore a clear purpose to finance to avoid pure speculation – the aim could be to finance the third industrial revolution towards a more sustainable economy.”

“To achieve valuable sustainability it is important to understand the social and economic priorities of different societies/countries.

For instance, in Europe the concept of sustainability will no doubt be understood differently than in Africa, as the socio-economic situations of the people are different.”

“Sustainable values for valuable sustainability means defining the currency of success and achievement in a civil economy so that we can have competition for the best solutions and efficiency contributing to the common good – to complement the limited focus on GDP and profits in our capitalistic market economy.”

“Sustainability can never replace responsible acting and thinking.”

Individual and Social Responsibility

“ In the end it all comes down to the definition, interpretation, teaching and embracing of RESPONSIBILITY, not only on the level of Management, but also on the level of Shareholders, Staff and Consumers.”

“The further development of 'Social Companies' that take on a part of distribution needs to be supported by shareholders too, and by political decisions.”

“The social responsibility of companies is the right and proper way to promote sustainable development at the level of the individual firm.

The ethical/social/environmental dimension and the economic and financial one are not in contradiction, but represent the only chance to achieve the social market economy the European Union upholds.

The dissemination of the culture and practice of a company's social responsibility for sustainable development is a mission around which to mobilize the better parts of the intellectual resources of companies, of civil society and of the institutions.

The trade union is one of the actors in this process because it represents labour – not just a cost to administer, but above all a resource to make the most of.

Human capital and consensus are essential factors in successfully handling innovation and quality control.

This is the real way to compete on the global market.”

“Each and everybody, wherever his position (entrepreneur, worker, etc) should be aware or (made aware) of his role as well as his responsibility and act (or learn to act) in a responsible way.

Acting in a responsible way means also respecting and accepting different cultures, different approaches, different contexts (e.g. China, India to mention but two).”

From crisis to future

“Regarding the financial crisis, market cycles and globalization: the critical point is and remains that we must maintain open and vigorous dialogue: if not to achieve solutions, then at least for the global goal of learning from each other!”

“I’m very much in favour of the idea that the way out of this crisis is very much a question of taking on responsibility for our actions.”

“Because we’re human beings we go on doing the same things.”

“There is light on the horizon!

Things are improving: much too slowly, but it’s going in the right direction! I can’t see any other alternative!”

Proposals for next year’s seminar

“I would be pleased to have Asian participants and also a stronger focus outside Europe.”

“Format going forward:

The “Club of Florence” round table should invite more representatives of the stakeholders in a corporation (owners, workers, management), so as to mirror in the seminar the necessary dialogue of stakeholders in each and every company around the world – supplemented by academics, regulators, advisers etc. to serve as catalysts for the discussion.”

“In my opinion the intertwining between “technology and human presence” is one important subject to be developed. Or also humanity, human nature and economic issues.”