



**leaders
for
change**
international **glbt** business convention

EDGE
EXCELLENCE & DIVERSITY
BY GLBT EXECUTIVES

egma.

Milano
Comune di Milano

MILAN, OCTOBER 2-4, 2015

WITH THE PATRONAGE OF



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



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Saturday, October 3, 9:00-15:30

9.00 Registration

MORNING SESSION

9.30 Opening

Angelo Caltagirone – President of EDGE

9.45 Greetings from the authorities

- **Francesca Balzani** – Vice-Major, City of Milan
- **Franco D'Alfonso** – Council Member for Business, Tourism, Territorial Marketing and Municipal Services, City of Milan
- **Cristina Tajani** – Council Member for Labour, Economic Development, University, Research and Smart City Projects, City of Milan
- **Ivan Scalfarotto** – Undersecretary of State for Constitutional Reforms and Government Liaison to Parliament; Italian Republic
- **Benedetto Della Vedova** – Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italian Republic
- **Amb. David de Waal** – Consul General in Milan, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Patrick R. Wingate** – Consul for Consular Affairs in Milan, United States of America
- **Marc-Antoine Dumas** – Embassy Counsellor for Political And Economic Affairs, Canada
- **Maria Rosaria Iardino** – Councilor for Equal Opportunities, Gender Policies, Support to Impaired People and Disabilities, Metropolitan Administration of Milan

10.30 Keynote Speech

IRENE TINAGLI

Economist and Member of the Parliament

Recent studies show that there is an important correlation between the inclusiveness and diversity of a city and its ability to generate creativity, innovation and new ventures. Public and private institutions should promote human rights, inclusiveness and diversity policies in order to improve the business and social environment. New technologies play an important role in supporting this process and empowering individuals and new entrepreneurs.

Main issues

- » Creative class and talent
- » Innovation and technology
- » Inclusion and diversity policies
- » The role of cities, institutions and enterprises

11.00 Round table “Innovation in Smart Cities” with

- **Andrea Agnello** – Director of Industries Solutions Sales, IBM
- **Juul van Hoof** – Director of Rainbow Cities Network
- **Juan Julià** – President of Axel Hotels in Barcelona and member of the board of the IGLTA (International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association)
- **Marco Margheri** – Vice-President for Public Affairs, Edison
- **Justin Nelson** – Co-founder and President of NGLCC (US National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce)
- **Camilla Seibezzi** – Former delegate Civil rights, City of Venice
- **Cristina Tajani** – Council Member for Labour, Economic Development, University, Research and Smart City Projects - City of Milan

Moderator

Fulvio Marcello Zandrini – Communication Consultant

12.30 Q&A

12.45 Announcement

A GLBT BUSINESS COUNCIL IN ITALY

Angelo Caltagirone, Justin Nelson, Darrell Schuurman

13.00 Light Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION

14.00 Keynote speech

FRED P. HOCHBERG

Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank)

14.30 Round table “LGBT Business Leaders and the cities. Success stories” with

- **Mark Robbins** – President and CEO of The American Academy in Rome
- **Darrel Schuurman** – Co-founder and Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- **Daniel Winterfeldt** – Lawyer, Head of International Capital Markets at CMS
- **Juan Julià** – President of Axel Hotels in Barcelona and member of the board of the IGLTA (International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association)

Moderator

Barbara Vecchietti – Vice-President of EDGE and Co-founder of Food on the Road

Main issues

- » Being gay and out in the business. Coming out. Dealing with peers and clients.
- » LGBT SMEs, being together as a need and a support.
- » How the differences of legal protection and inclusion policies between states and cities affects personal and business life.
- » The perception about Italy.

15:30 Conclusion

About EDGE

EDGE (Excellence and Diversity by GLBT Executives) is the first Italian network of GLBT professionals, entrepreneurs and managers working for the recognition of richness of diversity. EDGE was born out of a desire to change Italian culture. EDGE's goal is to foster communication between its members with the aim of improving their conditions on the personal, professional, economic and cultural level. It functions as a lobby group that represents the interests of Italian gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, including by means of participation or organization of activities that promote the diffusion of a culture of personal dignity using GLBT individuals as role models.

In its almost 3 years of existence EDGE has organized several events in Italy. The most important was the international conference "Homophobia... What Is The Cost?" (<http://www.edge-glb.it/homophobia>) held in Rome on November 2013 under the patronage of the Embassies of the Netherlands and the United States and the Italian National Office against Discrimination (UNAR). With Stephanie Blackwood from PFLAG and Boris Dittrich from Human Rights Watch among the keynote speakers; and the Dutch Embassy and IBM among the sponsors.

In June 2014 EDGE was asked by the City of Milan to organize an international event during the World Exposition Expo 2015 in Milan.

About egma

The European Gay and Lesbian Manager Association (egma) is an umbrella organization of national affiliated LGBT business associations, which represent almost 3500 LGBT managers, professionals and entrepreneurs. egma acts as a platform accessible to all member organizations, providing the LGBT business community with easy access to local agendas and events as a base for European networking. Other perspectives are to offer business contacts throughout Europe access, using a business diary to research Europe-wide contacts. egma aims to take an active role in European politics, focusing on topics that concern the LGBT business community. Together with its member associations, egma organizes events and projects relating to workplace equality and diversity management.

Together with IBM, egma has organized the "International GLBT Business Leader Forum" in several European cities. The last edition of the forum (<http://www.glb-business-leader-forum.org>) was held in Rome during the Europride 2011 under the patronage of the Italian Government (Ministry for Equal Opportunities) and the Province of Rome, with IBM as presenting sponsor and Accenture as the Exclusive Dinner sponsor. Among other sponsors were Microsoft, Out&Equal and the NGLCC (US National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce). Key Note Speakers were Harry van Dorenmalen, Chairman of IBM Europe, and Ivan Scalfarotto, newly elected as Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Constitutional Reforms and Government Liaison to Parliament.