



COMUNE DI BARI

*Bari, 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006*

*Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,*

*It is indeed a great privilege for me to speak to you today as Mayor of the city of Bari. In the name of the entire citizenship I welcome you and thank you for giving us the honour of your presence. I also thank all the Institutions present at this ceremony and the LUM – Jean Monnet University for its decision to confer a laurea honoris causa in economy on you.*

*It would be unnecessary to expose the great merits of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the maintenance of peace and security in the world. These merits found their legitimate recognition in the decision of the Nobel Committee to award you, Mr. Director General, and the Agency you lead, with the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for your “efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way”.*

*In a very recent publication of the New York University Law School entitled “What price, peace” devoted to your work, Mr. ElBaradei, we read that the crisis you are “trying to manage has long been dreaded. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy warned that as many as 25 nations might acquire nuclear weapons by the 1970s. That nightmare scenario never materialized. In fact, for a time, the global nonproliferation effort could count more successes than failures. In recent years, however, the successes have slowed to a trickle, and the danger of a cascade of nuclearizing countries appears more imminent than ever”.*

*Mr. Director General, you stated that “if there is a lesson from recent history, it should be that a global approach to our problems and to our future is the only approach”. This is what we are trying to implement day by day in our work of the administration of the city.*

*Bari is a Mediterranean city, with a harbour vocation, open to the world influences, culturally and traditionally hospitable. Bari is a city of peace. We are proud to have established a Council Office inspired by the values of the welcome and the peace.*

*During the dark days of Iraq crisis in the first months of 2003 and, today, in the vicissitudes related to the Iranian nuclear project, our community admired and admires the effort that you, Mr. ElBaradei, and your Agency are lavishing indicating to the States the only possible solution to international conflicts: the use of diplomacy.*

*Few people have the courage, during the difficult moments, to make prevail the force of the reason on the reason of the force. To avert the use of military intervention, leaving the ground to the fatiguing diplomatic effort, has among its traits, the most atrocious consequence of the wars: the involvement of innocent victims, in particular children.*

*Bari, Mediterranean city, will soon become the seat of an international agency for the protection of children in war zones. This is a result I am pleased to share with you, Mr. Director General. You represent for all of us a model of uprightness, determination, intellectual and professional honesty that was transferred, with your daily work, at the service of the international community.*

*We cannot allow the Mediterranean Sea to become a sea of war and terrorism. With a little bit of conceit, entirely baresian, we feel guardians of this sea as well. Since we were children we are used to feel its salt on our skin. And we will go on with all our strengths together with persons like you, so that our sea will not see anymore the war, so that this salt would stop to burn the wounds.*

*Peace, Mr. ElBaradei, is the assumption of all our dreams and all our plans.*

*It is for this reason that I have the honour to consign, on behalf of the community I represent, the Keys of the City of Bari to you, Man of Peace and Man of Mediterranean.*

*Michele Emiliano  
Mayor of Bari*