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PRESS RELEASE

SEMINAR

From Rome 1957 to today: the European integration and its Future

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Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Jakarta

*"As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome,
it is time for a united Europe of 27 to shape a vision for its future"*

(Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, 1 March 2017)

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute, Jakarta in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to Indonesia and the European Studies Postgraduate Programme, Universitas Indonesia organised a seminar entitled "From Rome 1957 to today: the European integration and its Future". The seminar was introduced by the Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Vittorio Sandalli and remarks were given by Mr. Charles-Michel Geurts (Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Delegation) and Dr. Polit. Sc. Henny Saptatia DN, MA. (Head of Master Program of European Studies, School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia).

Sixty years ago in Rome, the foundations were laid for the Europe that we know today, ushering in the longest period of peace in written history in Europe. The Treaties of Rome established a common market where people, goods, services and capital can move freely and created the conditions for prosperity and stability for European citizens.

On this anniversary, Europe looks back with pride and looks forward with hope. For 60 years we have built a Union that promotes peaceful cooperation, respect of human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality and solidarity among European nations and peoples. Now, Europe's shared and better future is ours to design.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Angelino Alfano, confirmed that sixty years of European integration have not

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leveled out our diversities but have converted them into an asset capable of overcoming the divisions of the past. We want to continue building a Europe based on democracy, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental human rights.

The 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome is a welcome opportunity to reflect on the future of the European Union – mostly by looking forward, but also by evaluating past decades. At a time when some of the fundamental principles that have so far underpinned democratic states and advanced economies seem under threat, it is all the more important to remind ourselves of the original goals of European integration.

The European story is one of peace, democracy, solidarity and freedom, but also of prosperity, equality, well-being and sustainability. At this critical juncture in history, it is worthwhile remembering the principles that unite us as Europeans, and the shared successes we have enjoyed together.

Certainly, there have been setbacks, and future challenges can sometimes appear overwhelming. This is why a period of dialogue, reflection and deliberation is needed. Taking stock of Europe's performance over time can perhaps be a useful start.

The EU Ambassador to Indonesia, Vincent Guérénd said, *"Sixty years after the signature of Treaty of Rome, we celebrate peace, prosperity, freedom and solidarity. These are achievements that we cherish and which are at the core of European integration"*. He added *"Whatever events may bring in the future, one thing is certain: the EU will continue to put promoting international peace and security, development cooperation, human rights and responding to humanitarian crises at the heart of its foreign and security policies and we will do so working together with Indonesia and other partners all over the world"*.

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