

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

CLAUDIO BATTISTONI (*)

On behalf of the President of the CNR, Professor Garaci, and myself, as President of the Technological Committee of the CNR, I would like to thank the Vice President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and all the invited scientists for attending the second Swedish-Italian Symposium on New Materials Science, which is starting here in Rome at CNR.

For many years scientists, industrialists and politicians have recognized materials science to be an area of vital importance in order to make European industry competitive with the American and in Japanese ones. Therefore specific programs have been developed, both at European level (Brite-Euram, Esprit, etc.) and at a national level, thus giving rise in all European states to tumultuous activity in this field.

It was for these very reasons that the «Progetto Finalizzato», Special Materials for advanced technologies, was initiated in 1989. The Project is about to collate the results of approximately five years of research activity.

Aim of the Project was to apply the results of research, in specific fields of material science, to improvements in technological and industrial processes.

Since the Project has begun, it has been recognized the importance of developing bilateral co-operation and activities within the European framework. Always during this period, academic and industrial research groups, founded by the Project, have been encouraged to co-operate with European partners in such a way, that they can be considered as being almost full participants in EEC programs.

It was for this reason that I accepted the invitation to Sweden in 1992, to exchange experiences, to present Italian and Swedish scientific state of the art in the field of materials, and to study the possibility of future co-operation between the two states.

During the meeting (at Pitöa) we realized we would be required to meet again, in order to better define topics of common interest, and to establish Italian-Swedish co-operation in the materials field.

(*) President of the Technological Committee of the CNR.

Persons from the industrial field are included amongst the experts. This is due to the importance of integrating the two worlds (both public and private).

Working in a European partnership on industrial research projects with common objectives takes time and effort to achieve. However as great rewards we will fulfill the joint sharing of technological risk, the discovery of common industrial and scientific interests and the benefits which can be obtained from complementary markets. There are also aspects such as halving the cost of research supported by the EU.

As we all know, the Industrial Technologies (ex Brite-Euram) Program is about to be initiated in the field of materials, and in relation to this I am looking forward to exploring ways in which to present joint Swedish-Italian research proposals.

Even if I am no longer the Director of the «Progetto Finalizzato» I hope that this second Symposium, to be held at Ischia, will provide you all the possibility of exchanging information, in the expectation of future Italian-Swedish co-operation in the field of new materials science.

I would like to conclude this welcoming address by wishing all the participants a fruitful and pleasant stay in Ischia.