



To: Mr. Francesco Rocca
Extraordinary Commissioner
Italian Red Cross
Via Toscana 12
00187 Rome

Budapest, 16 December 2011

Dear Mr. Rocca, *dear Francesco,*

As 2011 draws to its conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you for the remarkable results achieved by the Italian Red Cross over the last two years, since the on-going reform process was started with the support of the Europe Zone Office. The reports of the last period clearly show extremely positive and encouraging signs for the internal development of the Italian Red Cross becoming a stronger National Society, nationally and internationally.

Progress is indeed visible in many areas. It is with pride that I remember that the Italian Red Cross was among the first National Societies to promptly adopt and translate Strategy 2020 after the 2009 General Assembly in Nairobi, and among the first to start its implementation and the process of internal adjustment to its guidelines.

One of the founding elements of a strong National Society is indeed the establishment of a set of indicators and of monitoring systems, which can measure performance, as well as ensure accountability and transparency. In this regard, the Italian Red Cross has successfully managed to set up systems of performance evaluation for managers and directors, has joined the newly-launched IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC), has strengthened the efficiency of its emergency reporting and, thanks to the cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross, has laid the basis for the establishment of a centralized databank system. All these tools are and will allow the Italian Red Cross to be more effective, more efficient, and more capable of measuring its own progresses.

My compliments also go to the upcoming approval of the reform of the Italian Red Cross in the Italian Parliament, of which all the aforementioned achievements represent small but essential preparatory steps. Although as of today the reform is not complete yet, the overall framework that was presented seems to finally bring some historical changes that the Italian Red Cross has needed for many years now, such as, for instance, a stronger independence

from public powers, which has been possible thanks to more autonomy of local branches, and the possibility for members to vote their own Statute.

The Italian Red Cross seems to be now heading towards a leaner structure thanks to a renewed territorial setting and the reorganisation of volunteering management. From our side, as Federation we are happy to continue to support you in such process, and remain at your disposal for any assistance you may need in the next steps. It is a pleasure for me and the Europe Zone team to work with you and look forward to continue this in 2012.

With my warm wishes to you and the Italian Red Cross team for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sincerely Yours,



Anitta Underlin
Director of Europe Zone
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies

