



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

**SPEECH BY THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE CAPTAINS REGENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE AUDIENCE  
GRANTED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION**

It is a pleasure for us to welcome Professor Michael Kalmar and Professor Raymond Claes, who are respectively President and Vice-President of the European Dyslexia Association, Professor Giacomo Stella and all the distinguished guests present here today.

We are pleased that, for two consecutive years, such Association has chosen our Republic for its annual meeting, which is an important opportunity for exchanging experiences, reflecting on and in-depth examining the problems connected with dyslexia.

For a long time, dyslexia has been a little-known, stigmatized disorder, which was very hard to overcome. Not long ago, many students considered lazy and negligent abandoned their studies, limiting their learning and education opportunities.

Nowadays, from a social point of view, a greater awareness on the problem has been fostered, and also thanks to principles and rules setting out all rights and duties related to reading difficulties both at school and work.

School pays attention to the problems of dyslexic children and tries to find solutions to respect their right to education. Teachers work to implement, in everyday life, the principle of uniqueness and development of the potentialities of every pupil, as well as of a personalized school programme, of educational continuity and a perspective based on the centrality of the minor.

Effective cooperation among professionals, school directors and parents enables the latter to face, with greater awareness and serenity, dyslexia and their important, demanding role of support of their dyslexic children.

An effective awareness raising activity towards institutions, school and public opinion has contributed to this new cultural behaviour, with the purpose of avoiding that inappropriate



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education and learning may create feelings of inadequacy and inferiority, which could compromise both educational and professional development and lead to phenomena of real social exclusion.

We express therefore our deep appreciation and even our gratitude to you for the expertise and engagement, as well as the concrete and effective approach you have demonstrated for years and which have contributed to awareness raising and to a greater knowledge of this theme, firstly by promoting the respect of the human dignity of individuals.

On this occasion, we also express our appreciation to the San Marino Dyslexia Association, founded last year, in favour of which we will fully support.

At the conclusion of this speech, we would like to express our deepest satisfaction to the Education Department Officials of the University of the Republic of San Marino, especially to Mrs. Assunta Meloni, who have promoted some important initiatives such as the institution of a Centre for Dyslexia in San Marino, as well as meetings and courses dedicated to education and learning.

We are proud that the Republic of San Marino is a centre of excellence for specific learning disorders, under the guidance of Professor Giacomo Stella, to whom we express the sentiments of our appreciation and gratitude.

Hoping that the process started thanks to your commitment and dedication will continue also in the future, we express to you all our most sincere wishes for a fruitful work and a pleasant stay in our Republic.

*San Marino, 4 July 2011*