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PRESS RELEASE

CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK – ITALY 2011

After featuring the Netherlands in 2010, the **Cultural Days of the European Central Bank (ECB)** will this year focus on **Italy**, with a variety of cultural events being held at well-known locations in **Frankfurt am Main** from **19 October to 17 November 2011**.

The programme of events, organised by the ECB in cooperation with the Banca d'Italia, includes classical music and jazz concerts, film screenings, literary and art events, as well as dance performances and events for children, putting Italy at the heart of Frankfurt am Main's cultural scene for four weeks. This year's Cultural Days will be held under the joint patronage of Jean-Claude Trichet, President of the ECB, and Mario Draghi, Governor of the Banca d'Italia.

Programme highlights:

MUSIC

The **Orchestra Mozart** from Bologna, conducted by **Claudio Abbado**, will open the Cultural Days with a concert at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt on 19 October at 8 p.m.

Italy's master violinist **Uto Ughi**, together with the chamber orchestra **I Filarmonici di Roma**, will perform in Frankfurt's venerable Paulskirche on 11 November at 8 p.m. Entry to the concert, which has been organised in cooperation with the City of Frankfurt am Main, will be free of charge, and attendees will be invited to make a donation to the Frankfurt-based organisation *MUKIVA Kinder- und Familienzentrum e.V.* Donations will go to the organisation's "SoFa-Tandem" project, which brings together people from different cultures and backgrounds and allows them to share knowledge and skills as a form of reciprocal and mutual assistance. This fosters curiosity and open-mindedness towards others and helps to break down barriers.

The **Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi**, under the direction of **Xian Zhang**, will bring the curtain down on this year's Cultural Days with a concert at the Schauspielhaus Frankfurt on 17 November at 8 p.m.

LITERATURE

Literary events with **Claudio Magris** at the Literaturhaus Frankfurt on 20 October at 7.30 p.m., **Dacia Maraini** at the ECB on 14 November at 8 p.m., and **Gianrico Carofiglio** at

the Deutsches Architekturmuseum on 16 November at 7 p.m., will provide an opportunity to meet well-known Italian writers.

FILMS

A series of **Italian films** focusing on the theme of "Questioni di famiglia" (family affairs) will showcase six recent Italian productions at the CineStar Metropolis cinema in Frankfurt am Main as part of the Cultural Days. The first will be shown on 24 October, starting at 6 p.m.

We look forward to this year's Cultural Days, which reflect our ongoing commitment to helping to further Europeans' understanding of one another and to raising awareness of the cultural wealth of Europe and its common cultural roots.

The complete programme for the Cultural Days of the ECB – Italy 2011 is available on the ECB's website at www.ecb.europa.eu/culturaldays. Further information about the events can be obtained by sending an e-mail to cultural-days@ecb.europa.eu or calling the Cultural Days hotline on +49 69 1344 5555 (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

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