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PROF. SCIARRONE ALIBRANDI GIVES US INSIGHTS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

As the leader of the International Summer School, would you please tell us about its ambition and its structure?

The International Summer School on Banking and Capital Markets Law - which gets to its third edition in 2020 – is a project born from a partnership among Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan and several prestigious European and extra-European universities. Reasoning with some colleagues, especially with Danny Busch and Guido Ferrarini (both from Radboud University Nijmegen), and Tobias Troeger (Goethe University Frankfurt) - who together with me are now Directors of the Summer School -, we came up with the idea of an initiative aimed at creating a valuable international network for young researchers and young professionals with senior academics, policy makers and practitioners in the sector of banking and financial law. In this context, PhD students and young scholars are given the opportunity to present their own research projects and to discuss them with leading academics and international experts. In these last two years, several colleagues belonging to well-known European and extra-European universities have adhered to the project that now sees the involvement of eight universities in total (Goethe University Frankfurt, University of Genoa, University of Hong Kong, KU Leuven University, University of Luxembourg, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, Radboud University Nijmegen, University of Zurich). An important role in the development of the Summer School has been played by the European Banking Institute, that since the beginning has been supporting its realisation not only in the promotion and spreading of this project but also contributing to the programme design and favouring the participation of some members of its Young Researchers Group (YRG). Moreover, right from the second edition also the AEDBF, the European Society for Banking and Financial Law that brings together professionals specialized in this field, has been

supporting the initiative.

Could you please tell us something more about the factual organization of the Summer School?

The International Summer School consists of a five-day programme in the last decade of July. The works take the start from an Opening Conference held in the historical venue of Università Cattolica in Milan, and every year this first event focuses on a different but prominent topic discussed by high-level speakers: *FinTech* in 2018, *Governance of Financial Institutions* in 2019, and I can anticipate that the 2020 topic will be *Sustainable Finance*. On the second day everybody moves to Villa Vigoni at Lake Como, an ancient building of rare fascination where European history and culture meet modern structures and cutting-edge services. There the participants spend the following days working in a relaxed and constructive atmosphere. There are two key components of the Summer School programme: the participants' presentations and the lectures on the most recent topics of banking and financial law given by senior academics and representatives from the European Commission and from EU and national supervisory authorities. In order to ensure a highly interactive environment, the number of participants is limited, and they are selected on the basis of a Call.

As it will be its third edition this year, which are the already existing achievements, and which are the aspects you would like to develop?

We are all very proud of the first results of this programme which is a good example of the real mission of universities: the transmission of knowledge that finds its reason of being in the free circulation of ideas and researchers. One of the most important objectives of Higher Education is the development of talents among the youngest generations by strengthening their versatility and their abilities to find innovative solutions to the challenges posed by unpredictable global scenarios. In our field, in particular, problems such as technological evolution and sustainability require ever evolving professional skills that we have been trying to enhance with our Summer School. In the first two editions, we had a wide participation of people coming from all over the world (from Canada to Hong Kong) and durable bonds and fruitful relationships also in terms of common research projects were born among our participants. Starting with the second edition, some sponsors (for example, two Italian law firms and a specialised company in financial innovation and technology) have helped us offer some of our participants important scholarships. The Summer School Board is really grateful to them for their partnership because it has allowed young people who could not afford the Summer School to take part in it increasing their competences and skills. To this regard, we really hope that in the next edition the number of our partners will increase. Furthermore, another objective for 2020 is the strengthening of the relationship between our Summer School and EBI Young Researchers Group: the two initiatives share common aims and activities and their synergy can be very useful from different points of view.

Being a member of the EBI Academic Board, how would you describe the added value of this Forum to all the components of the EBI community?

The Summer School has the ambition to introduce young researchers and professionals to the debate and dialogue at international level in relation to issues concerning the financial field and its regulation and supervision, emphasizing the interplay among the academia, the industry and the regulators. In this respect, I really see a good combination between our School and EBI since, in its mission statement, it is written that "the EBI's ambition is to become the point of reference for banking regulation research in Europe and an instrument to facilitate the interactions between academia, supervisors, regulators and industry". In future, the more people from EBI will be involved in our programme, the more we would be able to promote an academic research production which is state of the art.