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The Trento Festival of Economics has officially started, with the first events paving the way to a promising 18th edition under “The future of the future”.

The Trento Festival of Economics takes off

The Trento Festival of Economics has officially begun, with the opening ceremony, “The future: beyond illusions and disappointments”, with journalist **Francesca Fagnani** and **Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi**. And yet events started already in the morning, with high-profile speakers: from **Elly Schlein**, secretary of the Democratic Party, sharing her ideas as to policies regarding national economy to **Paolo Gentiloni**, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, dealing with “Europe’s path to sustainable growth” and **Guido Crosetti**, the Italian Minister of Defence, highlighting critical issues related to European security. Two Nobel laureates gave a speech: **Robert Schiller**, 2013 Nobel in Economics and **Tawakkul Karman**, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. To close the day, an interview and concert with the Italian singer **Noemi** and **Andrea Pennacchi** performing in theatre: “Economics according to Pojana”.

The 18th edition of the Trento Festival of Economics has officially begun, with an opening ceremony witnessing broad participation from the public. The event, titled "The future: beyond illusions and disappointments", saw a profound dialogue between journalist **Francesca Fagnani** and **Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi**, President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Culture. Special guests in the event held at Teatro Sociale were **Flavio Deflorian**, Rector of the University of Trento; **Maurizio Fugatti**, President of the Province of Trento; **Franco Ianeselli**, Mayor of Trento; **Edoardo Garrone**, President of 24 ORE Group; **Mirja Cartia d'Asero**, Managing Director of 24 ORE Group; **Fabio Tamburini**, Director of Il Sole 24 Ore, Radio 24; **Federico Silvestri**, General Manager Media & Business of Il Sole 24 ORE; and **Enrico Salza**, President of Tinexta.

Even though the official opening ceremony occurred at 6 pm, the Trento Festival of Economics kicked off in the morning with several events hosting prestigious speakers: at Teatro Sociale, **Elly Schlein**, secretary of the Democratic Party, spoke at “Our ideas about economics”. Dealing with the theme from a 360° perspective, she highlighted several topics relevant to the national agenda without overlooking a European dimension. Questioned about the EU relations with the United States and China, she mentioned: "Putin's criminal invasion of Ukraine has had an important impact on the geopolitical chessboard. I would like to see the European Union playing a more active role. If we fail to build a common foreign policy, I think we will condemn ourselves to irrelevance in the geopolitical chessboard. We need to build a new multilateralism, which needs to be sounder and more concrete”.

At noon **Paolo Gentiloni**, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, dealt with “Europe’s path to sustainable growth” at Sala Depero in Palazzo della Provincia. Several issues were mentioned, from the current flood in Emilia Romagna and the EU support to the European Recovery and Resilience Fund – and how Italy is at the forefront as a grant receiver. A glance at China and the United States was taken: “In recent years, Europe has made extraordinary strides on the growth and sustainable development front. When looking at the United States and China, which are investing significant resources in the green economy and attracting businesses and investments, we must not be afraid to be leaders in the energy transition”, he stated.

During the afternoon, right after the Air Force paid tribute to the Festival with a flyover of two AMX aircraft from the 51st Stormo di Istrana, **Guido Crosetti**, the Italian Minister of Defence, spoke at the event “The Europe of defence”, held at Teatro Sociale. “No European nation can defend itself alone”, – he asserted, and continued: “That is why a collective defence and security system bringing together the armed forces of all EU countries is needed. As is NATO. The times are forcing us to follow this path: we are working on it despite bureaucracy and the resistance of individual states”.

The afternoon also saw two Nobel laureates on stage: from Aula Kessler at the Sociology Department, **Robert Schiller**, 2013 Nobel Laureate in Economics and live on streaming, illustrated how feelings can affect the world of economics in the event “How emotions and fears can influence investments”. From the Sala di Rappresentanza of Palazzo Geremia, **Tawakkul Karman**, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and human rights activist, journalist, and politician, spoke about geopolitics under the title “Africa’s Frontiers”.

Lastly, the Festival is ready for an excellent closing of its first day: at 8.30 pm in Auditorium Santa Chiara, the Italian singer **Noemi** will be interviewed by the journalist and Radio 24 speaker Marta Cagnola; after the interview, the concert will follow. At 9.30 pm in Teatro Sociale, the actor and author, **Andrea Pennacchi**, will perform in “Economics according to Pojana”. Events are free, but participants need to register.

The program of the four-day Festival is available at the festivaleconomia.it website, where all events and speakers are published.

[At this link](#), information on facilities for travelling and staying in Trento during the days of the Festival is available.

Accreditation for journalists, photographers and videographers needs to be asked through the form: <https://www.festivaleconomia.it/en/stampa/accredito-stampa>

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