



**CONCEPT NOTE:** In-person Coffee with Nigel Topping, High-Level Climate Action Champion, and Italian NGOs to discuss the Race to Zero campaign

**Theme:** Race to Zero campaign

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> September, from 14:30 to 16:00;

**Format:**

- Small in-person event at Villa Wolkonsky for the speakers.
- Event recorded, short interviews with the participants at the end of the round-table discussion. Production of a video clip for social media to be shared after the event.

**Format:**

Introduction by HMA, presentation by Nigel Topping, followed by free-flowing interventions from participants.

**Chair:** HM Ambassador Jill Morris, British Embassy Rome

**Keynote speaker:** High-Level Climate Action Champion, Nigel Topping.

**Proposed participants:**

- Enrico Giovannini, Director, ASVIS
- Edo Ronchi, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation
- Stefano Ciafani, Director, Legambiente
- Gianni Silvestrini, Director, Kyoto Club
- Antonio Navarra, President, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change
- Donatella Bianchi, Director WWF Italy

**Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted devastating and continuing human suffering worldwide. The crisis, and necessary protection measures such as lockdowns, have had dramatic repercussions on economic activity – far exceeding the impact of the 2008-9 financial crisis.

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Despite everything, the pandemic is giving us the tremendous opportunity to build back better and radically change both our economic and social models. This change cannot - and must not - be achieved by governments alone. On the contrary, all non-state actors must be at the core and an integral part of this shared process.

It is with the goal of promoting ad hoc strategies to contain and reduce emissions that the Race to Zero campaign was launched, bringing together companies, cities, regions, and investors from around the world to create the largest ever alliance to achieve the goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2050.

This campaign, led by High-Level Climate Action Champions - Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz, aims at building momentum around the shift to a decarbonised economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that business, NOGs, cities, regions, and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy. This initiative was further reinforced 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020, with the launch of the SME Climate Hub, whose aim is to encourage small and medium-sized companies to commit to halving greenhouse gas emissions before 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions before 2050.

Therefore, this meeting with Nigel Topping will be an extraordinary opportunity to learn more about the Race to Zero campaign and to discuss ideas to build back better and support a healthy and resilient recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

### **Key questions:**

**Nigel Topping would be pleased to answer your questions on the Race to Zero campaign. In addition he would be interested in exploring the following questions:**

- 1. Is there already awareness around the Race to Zero campaign in Italy? How can we increase this awareness amongst businesses/cities/regions?**
- 2. Which cities/regions/business sectors are most committed to the net zero goal? Which are less?**
- 3. What challenges/opportunities do you foresee for the Race to Zero campaign in Italy? How can we link the Race to Zero to the Green Recovery?**

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4. How can we mobilise people and civil society to get involved in climate action ahead of COP?
5. How can the UK and Italy best work together to promote the Race to Zero in the lead up to COP26?

