

## **Accademia dei Lincei in remembrance of Umberto Colombo**

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*short report by Eleonora Barbieri Masini, Honorary Member of the Club of Rome*

The topic reflects the different interests and activities of Umberto Colombo: *“Science, Technology and policies in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century”*

The meeting was held at the prestigious Accademia dei Lincei in Rome where, in 1968, the Club of Rome held its first and founding meeting on the initiative of Aurelio Peccei and Alex King. It was chaired by the President of the Academy, Giovanni Conso, Jurist and former Minister of Justice and the past President Giorgio Salvini professor in physics' and well known researcher.

The meeting was introduced by the Italian Republic former President, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, personal friend of Umberto Colombo and his wife, Milena by recalling their shared young years as citizens and socially concerned human beings, belonging to the intellectual life of the city of Leghorn in Tuscany. This sharing took place partly during and mostly right after the Second World War and was recalled by President Ciampi with a very personal and moving speech. The opening was followed by personal and scientific remembrances of Umberto Colombo on the topic of “Personality and Role of Umberto Colombo” as well as on “The Cultural Context” in which he lived and strongly operated. Among the speakers Riccardo Galli, Giuseppe Lanzavecchia and Danielle Mazzonis, all researchers who had worked with him for a long time and to his last years.

The second day's topics were: “Chemical Industry and Materials” an area in which Umberto Colombo had a standing position in Italy with his work and high level responsibilities in National bodies such as Montecatini, Montedison, Enimont and ENI.

The last part of the meeting was centred on Colombo's very important involvement on “Science and Research Policy” at the national as well as international level and the speakers were the Italian well known social analyst Giuseppe de Rita, as well as Jean-Jacques Salomon who had shared with Colombo his long experience at the OECD Committee for Science and Technology in its activities which he defined as ranging from science policy to policy through science. This very well know scientist defined Umberto Colombo one of the most inspiring members of the Committee, who was also for a time chairman of it. In the same session the Italian minister for Innovation of Public Administration of the present Italian Government, Luigi Nicolais spoke of his experience as one of the many people that Colombo had, in different ways, introduced to policy science. Another speaker in the same panel was Riccardo Petrella who was one of the first people to work on foresight at the European Community.

The Italian Nobel prize for neurobiology Rita Levi Montalcini, who was a close friend of Colombo, closed the meeting.