

## ***Forward from the New Managing Editor***

*Professor Mario Baldassari, the soul and indefatigable driving force in the Rivista di Politica Economica (RPE) for the last 10 years, will leave the Editorial Board in this period to devote himself with equal passion to his new government commitments as Deputy Minister of the Economy and Finance. He will remain Chairman of the Scientific Committee. I offer my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the fundamental work he has carried out over these past 10 years and, more personally, I thank him for having given me the opportunity to be part of this fascinating adventure, first as Secretary of the Angelo Costa Prize and then as Assistant Editor.*

*Confindustria appointed me Managing Editor of RPE in the beginning of 2002. This is a tremendous honor and I would like to thank Confindustria — in particular Giampaolo Galli — and Mario Baldassari for their faith in me.*

*Let me briefly outline my plans for 2002.*

*RPE continued to increase the rigor of its selection of papers submitted for publication throughout 2001. This, together with its new website (<http://www.rivistapoliticaeconomica.it>), has brought wide praise from the scientific community. Likewise, the success of RPE's monographic issues, which are presented on extended tours at leading Italian universities, has spread the name and prestige of the Rivista even further. At the same time, we have overcome a number of editorial constraints, which were essential in the past but are now obsolete and limited the further development of the Rivista. Since June 2001, papers in the regular issues are published in Italian and English, now the reference language for economics researchers. Additional changes are necessary.*

RPE was a monthly journal, nearly unique among economics scientific journals in Italy. This did not allow us the flexibility needed to avoid periods of scarce availability of papers and, hence, to avert publication delays. The situation was worsened by the need to ensure a selective evaluation process, which makes it difficult to accept a large number of papers. Indeed, the number of papers that had to be published often exceeded the supply of publishable essays.

These considerations led us to modify the frequency of RPE, in line with that of other Italian economics scientific journals. Beginning in 2002 RPE will publish six issues per year, one every two months. In addition to three single-theme issues (two monographic issues plus one volume dedicated to the Angelo Costa Prize), three regular issues each containing 4-5 papers (12-15 per year) will be published. This will ease deadline requirements, while at the same time guaranteeing the quality of the papers published.

As such, it will be more difficult to retain the Theme of the Month section dedicated to highly topical arguments, which until now had been included in the regular issues. However, a new section will be added, Key Words, written in a style comprehensible to a broader readership, with two prominent economists offering their opinions (at times contrasting) on events of great social interest. Moreover, we will continue to invite well-known scholars to contribute with original papers and we will continue to publish a Book Review section.

RPE must not forgo its role as a leading stage for the most important monographic themes. RPE has earned widespread respect and a strong reputation for its volumes on topics of particular note, which often have been launched and presented at principal research institutes (I fondly remember the issue, edited by Mario Baldassari and Bruni Chiarini and dedicated to the memory of Ezio Tarantelli, on the labor market, which was presented at the University of Rome «La Sapienza».) I am extremely pleased that we have begun 2002 in the tradition of quality that has distinguished RPE for so many years with this monograph on the EU enlargement process to Eastern Europe.

It is difficult to publish an economics scientific journal in Italy. The competition from foreign journals is fierce. As Managing Edi-

*tor; it is fundamental to establish a well-defined mission, laying down clear and concrete objectives. RPE, posing great interest to doctoral students and young researchers, must undertake in coming years to help remove the barriers to the world of research and to the Italian university system. The best way is to award merit, guaranteeing recourse to highly-respected and conscientious referees and anonymity in the evaluation process to all those who submit. RPE's 70% rejection rate over the last years is witness to the rigorous standards instituted to ensure our readers and researchers a quality journal. Given our interest in young researchers, every year RPE publishes in the November-December volume the Angelo Costa Lecture and the papers by the winners of the Angelo Costa Prize, chosen among the best undergraduate theses in economics, in order to provide an incentive for further academic study and promote admission to Masters and Doctorate programs.*

*I hope that, as before, you will continue to find the Rivista consonant with the hopes of its founding Editor, who in 1911 published the first issue of then Rivista delle Società Commerciali with the «well-founded hope of providing a service ... that fosters civil education ... in Italy», thanks to the publication of original and important economics research.*

