



January 2009

Dear Lapo, dear friend,

I am delighted to hear that you are running to be selected as the Democratic Party's candidate for mayor of Florence. I feel sure that you would be an outstanding mayor.

I feel your international experience and credibility would be a key asset for Florence as a leading European city. You are right that local government must play a strong role in these times of unprecedented global challenges. In the context of triple crisis - financial, economic and environmental - we need political leaders like you, who are internationally experienced and deeply committed to the ideals of progress and social justice, to improve people's lives where it matters.

When we worked together in the European Parliament I saw how committed you are to implementing innovative, progressive policies. Your vision, expertise and dedication would benefit Florence enormously.

2009 will be a tough year for people across Europe and the world. We are faced with stark challenges. I feel confident that you, Lapo, have both the vision and resolve to steer your home town of Florence in the right direction and safely out of these difficult times.

Let me wish you the very best of luck in your campaign, which I fully support.

Yours fraternally,

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen  
President of the PES  
Prime Minister of Denmark 1992-2001

