



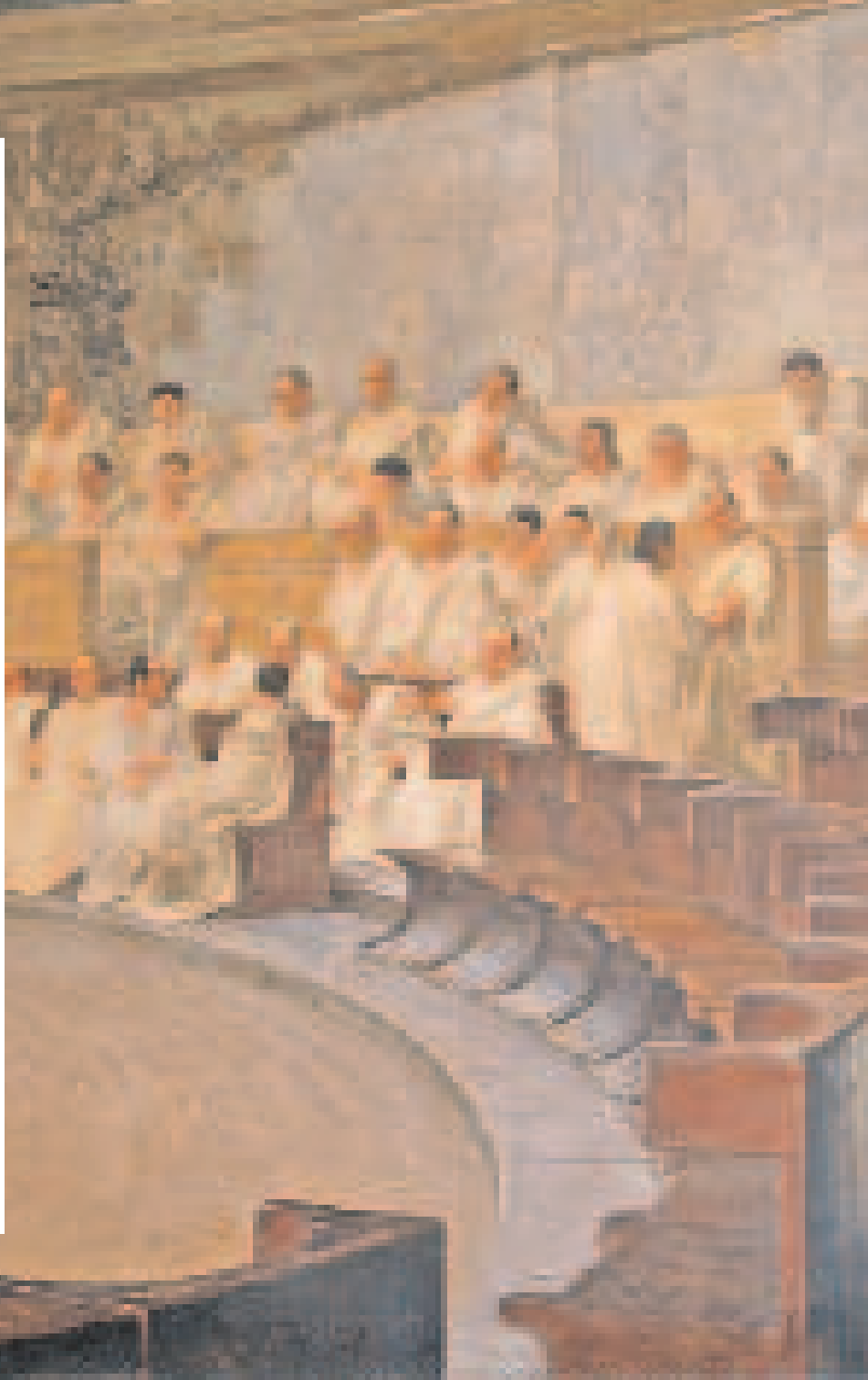
Senato della Repubblica

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**Inside**  
the **Senate**  
of the **Republic**

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## Parliament





The Italian Parliament comprises two Houses: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic. According to the principle of full bicameralism, each of the Houses performs identical functions. Their main function is to enact national legislation. By virtue of the vote of confidence, which brings a new Government to life, they lay down the policy guidelines that the Executive must follow. The Government is accountable to Parliament, which holds it to account through interrogations and questions.

Both Houses are elected every five years. The only differences between them are the number of members and the rules for their election. The 630 deputies must be at least 25 years of age, and are elected by all Italian citizens over 18 years of age. The 315 elected senators must be at least 40 years of age and their electors must be over 25. In addition to the elected members, the Senate also includes *ex officio* life senators [former Presidents of the Republic] and life senators – appointed by the President of the Republic for outstanding merits in the social, scientific, artistic or literary fields. The President of the Republic is elected every seven years, inaugurated and – if required – impeached, by both Houses sitting jointly. A given number of justices are also elected by a joint session of parliament to serve on the Constitutional Court and the Higher Judicial Council.

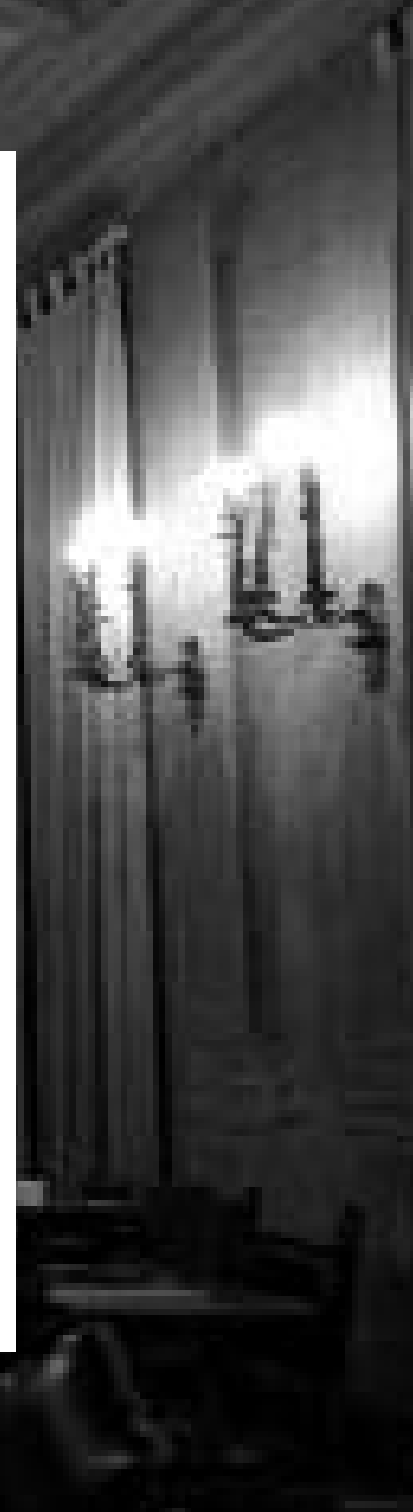
# Contents

	<b>Senate bodies</b>
8	The Assembly
8	The President
9	The Bureau
10	Parliamentary Groups
10	The Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders
10	Committees
12	Select Committees
12	Delegations
	<b>The work of the Senate</b>
16	The Law-Making function
16	The Making of an Ordinary Law
18	The Enactment of a Constitutional Amendment Law
18	Guidelines for Government Action
19	Government Accountability
	<b>The Senate and the public</b>
22	The Historical Archives
25	The Library
26	The Bookshop – Official Information and Documentation Centre
28	Parliamentary information
28	The Senate website
28	The satellite channel
29	Guided public visits
29	The Senate and schools
30	Exhibitions
30	Publishing
31	Cultural events
	<b>The Senate buildings</b>
35	Palazzo Madama
42	Palazzo Carpegna
45	Palazzo Giustiniani
49	Palazzo Cenci
50	Palazzo Minerva
53	Palazzo Sapienza
54	Building at piazza delle Coppelle
57	Former Spanish property building
58	Other buildings
59	<b>Contacts</b>





## Senate bodies



Senate statutory business is conducted by several individual and collegiate bodies, as provided by the Constitution and the Senate Rules of Procedure.



## The Assembly

The Senate has 315 elected members, and an additional number of appointed life senators and *ex officio* life senators. Life senators appointed by the President of the Republic "for outstanding merits in social, scientific, artistic and literary fields" have included such names as the orchestral conductor Arturo Toscanini [who rejected his appointment], the poet Eugenio Montale, and the playwright Eduardo De Filippo, to mention but a few. Former Presidents of the Republic are *ex officio* life senators. The presently serving life senators appointed by the President of the Republic are: Giulio Andreotti, Rita Levi Montalcini, Emilio Colombo and Sergio Pininfarina. The former Presidents of the Republic currently sitting in the Senate are Francesco Cossiga, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Carlo Azegli Ciampi.

The 315 elective seats of the Senate are distributed among the twenty Italian regions in proportion to their population, save for the seats assigned to the Overseas constituency. One seat is assigned to Valle d'Aosta, two to Molise and at least seven seats to each of the other eighteen regions.

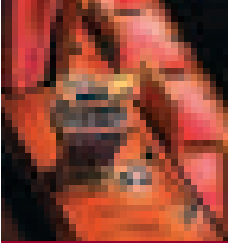
Under Article 58 of the Italian Constitution, any voter of 40 years of age or over may be elected.

## The President

Within twenty days of the general election, the Senate must hold its first sitting, which is presided over by the most senior senator by age. At their first session, the senators elect a new President of the Senate by secret ballot. For the first two ballots, an absolute majority of all the Senate members is required, but if this majority is not obtained a third ballot takes place, for which an absolute majority of the members present is sufficient. If no senator obtains the required majority in this ballot, the two senators obtaining the most votes in the previous ballot run against each other. In the case of a tied vote, the oldest senator is elected or, when two senators tie in second place, the oldest senator is chosen for the run-off ballot.

The President of the Senate holds an important office as the representative of the Senate and the second

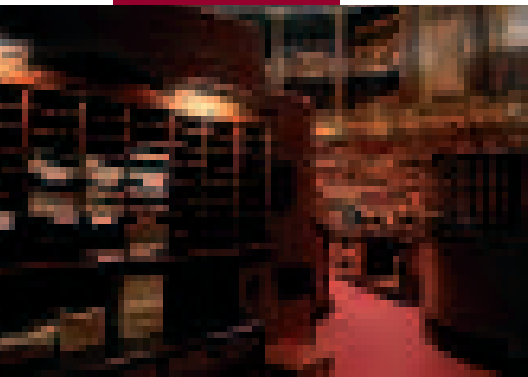




highest-ranking officer of the Republic. He acts as President of the Republic when the President is unable to perform his or her functions. The President chairs the debates, decides on the admissibility of bills, motions and questions, gives the floor to members, puts motions to the House, sets the voting schedule and proclaims the result of votes. He presides over the work of the Senate bodies, enforces the Rules, oversees the functions attributed to the Quaestors and Secretaries, and ensures the smooth running of the administrative machinery.

## The Bureau

After electing the President, the Senate elects the Bureau at its following sitting. The Bureau comprises four Vice-Presidents who chair debates from time to time and represent the Senate at public ceremonies, deputising for the President; three Quaestors, who are jointly responsible for the security, budget and financial accounts of the Senate; eight Secretaries, who assist the President during sittings, read bills and other documents that must be transmitted to the Senate, call the roll, confirm the results of votes and compile the records of public sittings. The number of Secretaries may be increased as provided for by the Rules. The Bureau is the ultimate authority on administrative and disciplinary issues. Acting on a recommendation of the President of the Senate, the Bureau appoints a Secretary General, who is responsible for the Senate staff. The activities of the Senate Bureau and the Board of Quaestors are made public through the regular publication of a Bulletin of Collegiate Bodies.



## Parliamentary Groups

Within three days of the first sitting, all the senators must notify the President of the Parliamentary Group which they intend to join. Non-attached senators are assigned to the Mixed Group. A Parliamentary Group must have at least ten members – although the Rules admit of exceptions. Each Group elects a Leader, one or more Deputies and one or more Secretaries.

## The Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders

The Leaders of the Parliamentary Groups assembled together constitute the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders, which approves the two-monthly Senate programme and the monthly business agenda.

## Committees

**Standing Committees** [so called because they are permanent bodies and are not established from time to time to consider individual measures] reflect the size of Parliamentary Groups and their members are appointed by each Parliamentary Group. Within five days of being established, each Group assigns its members to each of the Standing Committees, informing the President of the Senate [an exemption is granted to the 14th Committee, on EU Affairs]. Each Committee has legislative and non-legislative responsibility for one or more sectors, corresponding to the activities of one or more executive departments. The Senate Standing Committees are numbered from 1 to 14, with responsibility for the following subject matters:

- 1 Constitutional Affairs, Affairs of the Office of the Prime Minister, Home Affairs, Organisation of the State and the Civil Service;
- 2 Judiciary;
- 3 Foreign Affairs, Emigration;
- 4 Defence;
- 5 Economic Planning, Budget;
- 6 Finance and Treasury;



- 7 Education, Cultural Property, Scientific Research, Entertainment, Industry and Sport;
- 8 Public Works, Communications;
- 9 Agriculture and Food Production;
- 10 Industry, Trade, Tourism;
- 11 Labour, Social Security;
- 12 Health;
- 13 Environment, Environmental Properties and the Land;
- 14 European Union Policies [established in 2003 following the transformation of the Select Committee on the European Communities].



**Special Committees** are established following a decision of the Assembly to scrutinise particular bills. Their composition reflects the size of Parliamentary Groups.

**Committees of enquiry** have the same powers and limitations as the judiciary, and are established to investigate matters of public interest. They are established by Act of Parliament or by a resolution of the Senate.

**Joint Committees** are created by virtue of constitutional provisions or by law. They are advisory or oversight bodies, which issue guidelines and hold the Government to account. They comprise senators and deputies.

The **Committee on the Library and Historical Archives** is composed of three senators and is responsible for managing the Senate Library and Historical Archives.

## Select Committees

At the beginning of a new Parliament, the President of the Senate appoints the members of the Select Committees, taking into account the size of parliamentary groups.

The **Committee on Rules** comprises ten senators and is chaired by the President of the Senate. It considers and introduces changes to the Rules of Procedure and issues opinions on the interpretation of the Rules submitted to it by the President of the Senate.

The **Committee for Elections and Parliamentary Immunity** is composed by twenty-three senators, its chairperson being elected from among its members. It checks credentials and reasons for disqualification. This Committee also examines requests by the judiciary for authorisation to conduct personal or house searches on senators, to arrest senators, wire-tap their conversations or communications and impound their correspondence. It also examines requests to prosecute ministers.

## Delegations

Permanent Delegations of the Italian Parliament participate in the activities of the following international bodies:

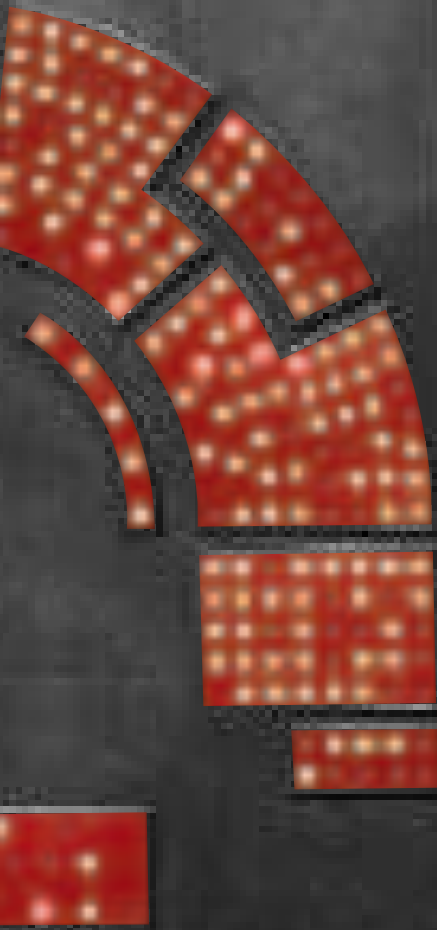
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union [WEU]
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe [OSCE]
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Central European Initiative [CEI]



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TABLE



## The work of the Senate

The Senate, similarly to the Chamber of Deputies, enacts national legislation, issues guidelines to the Government and keeps the Government in check.

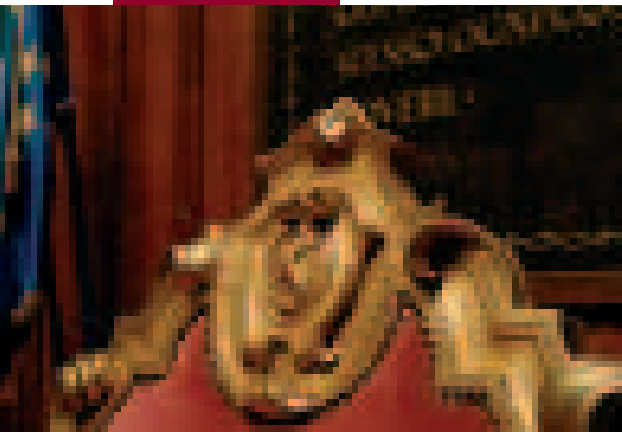
## The Law-Making Function

The law-making function is the process whereby new laws are enacted into national legislation. The Constitution vests this function in both Houses of Parliament. This means that, in order to become law, a bill must be passed by both Houses in the same text. The Constitution envisages two types of laws: **constitutional amendment laws**, which may either amend existing articles of the Constitution or introduce new ones, and **ordinary laws**, which regulate the life of the community. These two types of laws follow different procedures in terms of their passage through Parliament and their ranking in the legal system. A constitutional amendment law ranks higher than an ordinary law or other acts having the force of law [*i.e.* delegated legislation and decree-laws].

## The Making of an Ordinary Law

A draft law is known as a bill. Under the Constitution, a bill may be introduced by any member of Parliament, the Government, the people [in which case, the bill must be signed by no less than fifty thousand voters], a Regional Council, or the National Council of the Economy and Labour, for matters falling within its terms of reference. A bill must have a title, an explanatory report and a regulatory part divided into sections. The Senate provides drafting services to senators to help them to appropriately word a bill. The introduction of a bill is announced by the President before the Senate and the bill is then printed for distribution. The President decides to which Standing Committee the bill should be referred for consideration, informing the Senate. The Standing Committee to which a bill is referred may consider the bill:

- in a **reporting** capacity, in which case the bill is debated in the Committee which may propose amendments before returning it to the Senate for further debate and a vote;
- in a **drafting** capacity, in which case the Committee votes on individual sections of the bill before returning it to the Senate for the final vote







on the whole measure, to be preceded by a session at which the Parliamentary Groups explain how they intend to vote on the measure;

- in a **legislative** capacity, in which case the bill is either rejected or adopted in the Committee, which votes on it article by article before the final vote is taken on the whole bill.

A bill may also be referred to a Committee for an opinion providing guidelines to the Committee to which the bill has been referred for consideration: in this case, the Committee sits in an **advisory** capacity. When a bill has been considered by a Committee in a reporting capacity, the rapporteur makes a written report [or oral, in case of urgency] to the Senate. A general debate is then held on the bill, which is concluded by the remarks of the rapporteur and the representative of the Government. After the general debate, each section of the bill is considered separately: amendments to the section and then the whole section are put to the vote. When this process is over, a vote is held on the whole bill. After a bill has been passed, the Senate staff prepare the so-called "message": the bill, as passed by the Senate, is signed by the President and sent to the Chamber of Deputies. A bill that has already been passed by the Chamber and has been approved by the Senate without any amendments is sent to the President of the Republic for promulgation and publication in the Official Gazette. In order for a bill to become a national law, it must therefore be passed by both Houses of Parliament in the same text. If a bill passed by one House is amended in the other, it is referred back to the House that first passed it.

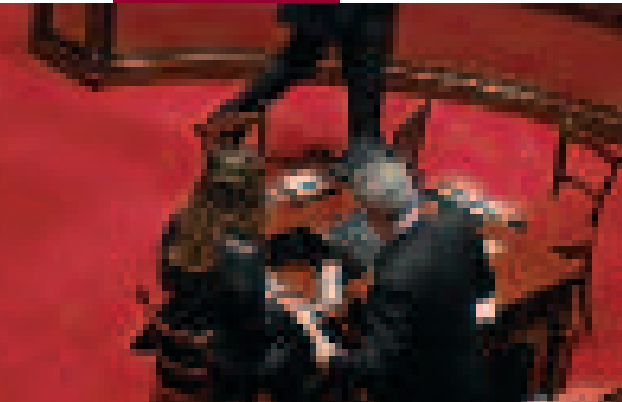
## The Enactment of a Constitutional Amendment Law

Under the Constitution, the procedures for the passage of a Constitutional Amendment Law and an Ordinary Law differ as follows:

- the Standing Committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter considers the bill in a reporting capacity;
- a constitutional amendment bill must be passed a second time by each House after no less than three months from its first passage [this is known as 'double reading'];
- in the second reading, such bill must receive at least an absolute majority of the members of each House;
- if a constitutional amendment bill is passed with a majority of less than two-thirds of the members of either House in the second reading, it is published in the Official Gazette but not promulgated and one-fifth of the members of either House, five-hundred thousand voters or five Regional Councils may request to hold a referendum on the bill within three months of publication. If the bill receives a two-thirds majority in both Houses, it is published in the Official Gazette and promulgated.

## Guidelines for Government Action

The Constitution requires the Government to enjoy the confidence of both Houses. Each House gives or withdraws confidence through a reasoned motion, which is put to a roll call vote. This requirement defines the role of Parliament in providing guidelines for Government policy. This is done primarily through a motion of confidence in the political programme proposed by the Government and later through **motions**, **resolutions** and **recommendations**.





## Government Accountability

The Government is accountable to Parliament, which performs its functions in this respect using various means. Any senator may put **questions** to the Government [in order to seek information or explanations on particular issues from the ministers responsible, or to learn which measures have been adopted or are planned to be introduced in relation to any issue] or **interpellations** [i.e. questions put to the Government regarding the motives or intentions underlying its conduct on matters of particular importance or general nature].

**Investigations** into matters of public interest may be conducted through purposefully established Committees either in the Senate or jointly with the Chamber.

Such a Committee is vested with the same powers and subject to the same limitations as the courts. Information material and documents may be acquired by a Standing Committee through **fact-finding enquiries**. At the end of the enquiry, a final report may be adopted, which is then printed for distribution.

## The Senate and the public

Opening of archives and documentation services and providing parliamentary information by telephone, e-mail, satellite TV and the Internet are instrumental to bridging the gap between the Government and the public. Guided tours of Palazzo Madama are also available, and members of the public may attend sessions or visit the Senate stands at major cultural events and fora around Italy.





## The Historical Archives

The Historical Archives house all documents produced by the Senate of the Kingdom of Italy and the Senate of the Republic. In addition to conserving documents, the Historical Archives provide a service to culture by making their contents available to scholars and establishing links with public and private archives. Since 10 April 2003, when they were first opened to the public, the Historical Archives have made their documents available to scholars. As part of the Historical Archives' commitment to culture, several publications are issued every year.











## The Library

The Senate Library was established in 1848. It has been open to the public since its transfer to Piazza della Minerva on 21 June 2003, and scholars and researchers may now browse through its 600,000 volumes, 3,500 Italian and foreign periodicals [2,000 of which are currently supplied by subscription], 400 dailies [currently 90], parliamentary records and Italian and foreign legislation. The Library proudly boasts a collection of Charters of Italian communes, trade and professional associations and other local bodies dating from the Middle Ages to the late 18th century.

## The Bookshop – Official Information and Documentation Centre

The Bookshop - Official Information and Documentation Centre is located at 27, Via della Maddalena. All Senate publications may be purchased here and information is provided on the Senate, its bodies and members. Parliamentary records of the Senate of the Republic [since 1946] and replicas of earlier documents [Senate of the Kingdom] may also be obtained. Live audio-video feeds of Senate sittings are shown on screens inside the Centre and through from its windows at street level. Educational programmes are conducted daily for visiting schoolchildren. A catalogue of publications may be purchased from the Bookshop – Official Information and Documentation Centre and guidance is provided on research and documentation activities and the Senate website. On-line orders for prints or publications may be placed to [libreria@senato.it](mailto:libreria@senato.it).





## Parliamentary information

The impulse which the Senate has given to informing the public has taken the form of the establishment of an information centre [+39 06.6706.3430], which provides direct access to parliamentary and Senate business in the current and previous parliamentary terms. The same information may also be requested from the Official Information Office at [infopoint@senato.it](mailto:infopoint@senato.it).

## The Senate website

The Senate website [[www.senato.it](http://www.senato.it)] provides information on the functions, structure, services and composition of the Senate, and offers a virtual tour of the main halls and rooms of Palazzo Madama, Palazzo Giustiniani and Palazzo della Minerva. The educational section of the website is designed to explain to children what the Senate does and how it works. Plenary sessions are broadcast live on the website on sitting days and parliamentary records are freely available for download. PDF files of printed documents remain on the website for one week following publication.

## The satellite channel

The satellite channel has been operational since 17 September 2002. Plenary sittings are broadcast unscrambled and may be received by all digital receivers via Eutelsat Hot Bird 2 at 13 deg. East, Reception frequency: 11.766 MHz; Polarisation: vertical; Symbol Rate 27.500 Msyb/s; FEC 2/3. During a parliamentary recess, the channel broadcasts the events taking place in the Senate [such as conferences in the Zuccari Hall or the Christmas Concert in the plenary hall] and guided tours of the main Senate buildings – the Palazzi Madama, Giustiniani, Cenci and Minerva – by an agreement with RAI Parliamentary Services.





## Guided public visits

Guided public visits to Palazzo Madama are conducted on the first Saturday of each month. To attend plenary sittings, a request should be sent to the Senate Protocol and Security Department by mail [Servizio di Questura e del Cerimoniale – Piazza dei Caprettari, 79 – 00186 Roma] or fax [+39 06.6706.3513]. A copy of an ID with a photograph for each visitor must be attached to the request. A contact telephone number must also be provided.

## The Senate and schools

Schoolchildren over 10 years of age may visit Palazzo Madama. Applications on the school's headed notepaper and signed by the head teacher should be sent to the Senate Protocol and Security Department by mail [Servizio di Questura e del Cerimoniale – Piazza dei Caprettari, 79 – 00186 Roma] or fax [+39 06.6706.3513]. As an alternative to visiting the Senate buildings, schoolchildren over 11 years of age may attend Senate sittings. The same application procedure applies.

Schoolchildren attending sittings or visiting Palazzo Madama may also take part in mock sittings in the Senate Bookshop at 27, Via della Maddalena, Rome. Senate staff and multimedia applications help children to become acquainted with Senate procedures and practice. When simulating a Senate sitting, children are directly involved in a parliamentary debate [information: +39 06.6706.2933]. Upper secondary students [aged 17+] may also take part in the initiative *A Day in the Senate*, where they can spend the whole day in the Senate, visit the new Library and meet with staff and senators.

Mock sittings are also held in a small installation reproducing the Senate hemicycle, to be found in the Senate stand at major cultural events and expositions in Italy. Information on such events can be found by following the link "*Relations with the Public*" in the English-language section of the Senate website.





## Exhibitions

The Senate takes part in various exhibitions and cultural events in Italy with its own pavilion equipped with computers linked to the Senate data banks and website. Information is provided on the composition of the Senate, its business and publications.

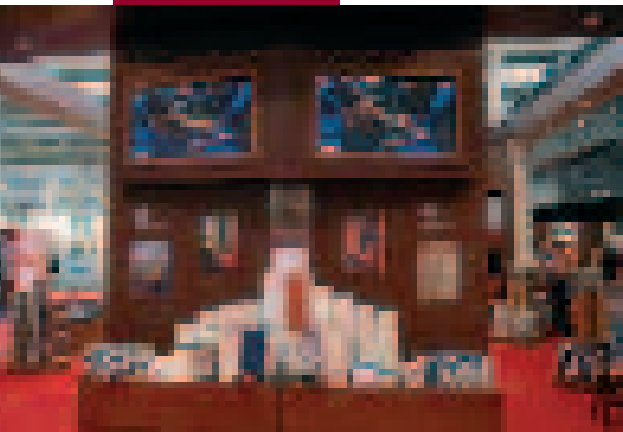
## Publishing

Implementing a decision of the Bureau, the Senate Historical Archives now publish several series: parliamentary speeches, historical debates in Parliament, catalogues, correspondence, history and documents, and biographies. The Historical Archives have also edited catalogues of documentary exhibitions housed in Palazzo Giustiniani.

The Senate also publishes the proceedings of the conferences held in the Zuccari Hall and recently set up joint ventures with leading Italian publishers, like Bibliopolis, Il Mulino and Rubbettino.

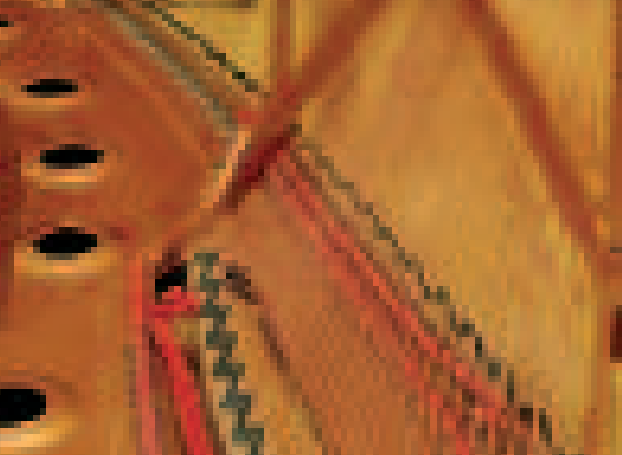
Mention should also be made of the collections of records and documents of several fact-finding enquiries recently conducted by the Senate, the Documentation Bulletin of the Senate Research Department, the Documentation Bulletin of the Senate European and International Department, Parliamentary Proceedings on passage of important bills and Legislative Collections available on CD-Rom.

The Senate Internet site hosts a page on new publications, listing the latest volumes in order of publication, with a description of their contents.



## Cultural events

During the years, the Senate has promoted a number of important cultural events, often held in the superb setting of the Zuccari Hall [Palazzo Giustiniani]. A love of music is expressed through the concert staged every Christmas. This tradition, started by former Senate President Nicola Mancino, has now become a welcome, regular event.









## The Senate buildings

In an ancient historic city like Rome, there are some buildings which have become symbols of the past immersed in the present. The Senate complex is a prime example: Palazzo Madama, the seat of the Upper House of Parliament since Rome became the capital of Italy, and its annexes, perfectly combine a time-honoured legacy with the demands of a modern democracy.





## Palazzo Madama

In 1478, the land on which Palazzo Madama was built was ceded to the French by the monks of the Imperial Abbey at Farfa, as a place in which to accommodate French pilgrims to Rome.

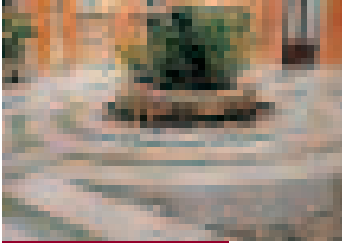
The first important refurbishments were carried out when the building passed into the hands of the Medici family. It was restored to a design by Giuliano Sangallo, and the remains of the library of Giovanni de' Medici – the son of Lorenzo the Magnificent and later Pope Leo X – were moved here after the Medici had been ousted from Florence.

When Leo X died in 1521, the Palazzo passed to his cousin Giulio de' Medici, who had lived here for a long time before becoming pope with the name of Clement VII. In 1534, it was inherited by Alessandro de' Medici, who died in 1537, whereupon it was given in usufruct to his widow Margaret of Austria, called the "Madama" [after whom the building came to be called], the natural daughter of Charles V of Habsburg and Duchess of Parma and Piacenza, who established her residence here. The building remained the property of the Medicis and the Grand-Dukes of Tuscany until the 18th century. Major renovation work was carried out in the seventeenth century: a Baroque façade, designed by Paolo Marucelli and completed in 1642, replaced the older asymmetric front and the interior was enriched with decorated ceilings and friezes under the supervision of Romano Monanni.

The Medicis, however, did not use the building again until 1725, when Violante of Bavaria, sister-in-law of Gian Gastone de' Medici, the last member of the Medici family, came to live here. Palazzo Madama then experienced its final period of splendour: parties and balls were held here and it was the seat of the *Arcadia* and the *Accademia dei Quirini*.

When Gian Gastone died in 1737, the Grand Duchy was transferred from the Medicis to the Lorrainers, and Palazzo Madama with it. In 1755, it was purchased by Pope Benedict XIV and became a government building of the Papal State. Substantial work was again undertaken: a second courtyard was opened in the area which now accommodates the Senate chamber, while the square outside the main entrance was redesigned.

In later years, law courts and the Police Headquarters were housed here, and the name of the building came to mean "the police" – and to this very day, Romans still often refer to the police as *la Madama!* The central office of the French-supported Roman Republic of 1798-99 was also in Palazzo Madama. Pope Pius IX moved the Finance and Public Debt Department here, and it appears that the drawing of lotto numbers was transferred from Palazzo Montecitorio [today's Chamber of Deputies] to the balcony of Palazzo Madama in 1850. The Pontifical Post Office was relocated here in 1851. In September 1870, the Italian troops stormed Rome and put an end to the Papal States. Rome became the capital of Italy and, in February 1871, Palazzo Madama was chosen as the seat of the Senate of the Kingdom. This made it necessary to adapt the Palazzo to its new use: according to a design by Luigi Gabet, the courtyard of the Post Office was converted into the Senate chamber, and the Senate sat here for the first time on 28 November 1871. Palazzo Madama now houses the Senate chamber, the offices of several Parliamentary Groups, the President and Secretary-General of the Senate and their staff, and some offices closely related to parliamentary activity.



## Ground floor

### Official Courtyard

This is a typical Renaissance environment. Its six columns are the vestiges of the building as it was at the time of Leo X. The statue by Emilio Greco was placed in the centre of the courtyard in 1972. The old travertine floor was replaced by marble.



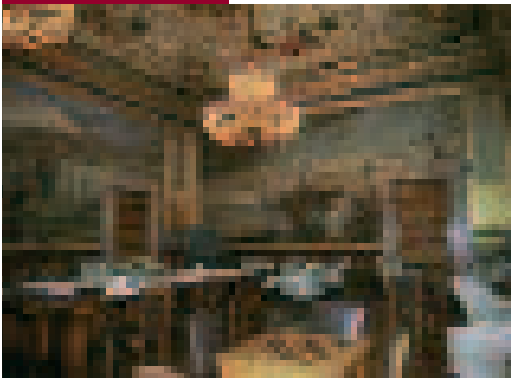
### Monumental Staircase

The Monumental Staircase of St Louis de France, opened in 1931, is surmounted by an imposing ceiling in solid wood with large recessed panels, dating back to the sixteenth century. The Medici coat of arms can be seen in the centre, dominating the scheme of decorative motifs featuring mermaids and tritons based on the theme of the battle of the marine gods. The dark background contrasts beautifully with the glitter and texture of the fine gilded carvings, making them stand out even more.

## First floor

### Maccari Hall

This hall is named after Cesare Maccari [1840–1919], the artist who decorated it after winning the bid published by the Ministry of Education in 1880. The ceiling has four medallions with allegorical figures, representing commerce, agriculture, arms, science, letters and the arts, arranged around a central motif symbolising Italy. The frieze bears a sentence by Guicciardini and another by Machiavelli. The walls are painted with episodes from the history of the Roman Senate: after entering the hall, on the right there is Appius Claudius the Censor being led to the Senate to exhort the Romans not to accept the humiliating conditions for peace imposed by Pyrrhus' ambassador, Cineas. On the opposite wall between the windows, is a painting depicting Marcus Papirius seated motionless in the face of the Gallic invasion, and another of the Samnites attempting to bribe Curius Dentatus to convince the Senate to make peace. On the other, shorter, side is a fresco showing Cicero delivering his oration against Catiline, who listens from his seat, isolated from the others. The last fresco shows Atilius



Regulus leaving Rome, after being captured by the Carthaginians in the Battle of Tunis and sent back to his country to negotiate on condition that he was considered to be a prisoner.

### Senators' Lounge

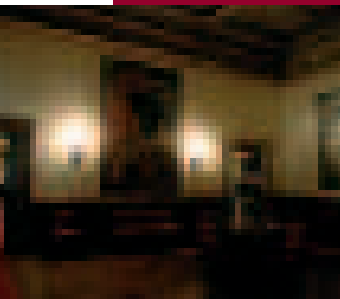
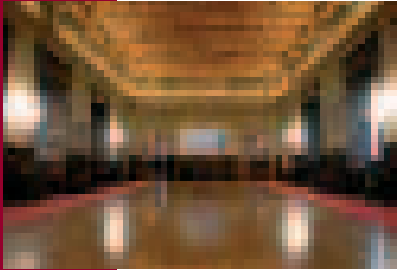
This is a spacious room, designed by Marucelli, with a ceiling featuring pale stucco figurines and friezes completed in 1931. On the wall overlooking the bar counter [on which there stands a statuette in the form of a fountain by Vincenzo Gemito, 1852-1929] is a particularly fine sixteenth-century Medici tapestry with a large coat of arms and wide bordures, previously hanging in the Uffizi in Florence. Two still life paintings by Luciano Ventrone, *The Pause* [2002] and *The Return of Ulysses* [2002], grace the other walls.

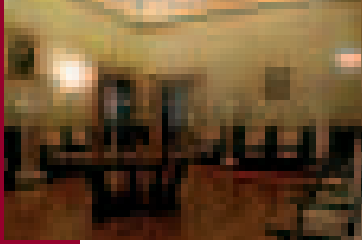
### Italy Hall

This vast hall was created by demolishing a dividing wall in the early 1930s [this wall stood in line with the second window counting from the Risorgimento Hall end]. The coffered ceiling is modern, whereas the frescoed frieze dates from the seventeenth century. Its motifs are not in sequence, since they were originally intended for two different rooms and, judging from certain details, they are by two different artists. Putti and lions feature in the part towards the Senators' Lounge and female figures predominate in the other section. They are all arranged around six historical frescoes [there were originally eight frescoes, but the two that were painted on the dividing wall were transferred to the Cavour Hall]. The Tower of the Crescenzi family is visible from one of the windows. It is a typical small twelfth century fortress-like construction which was left standing among the later buildings. The seascape, *Black and Blue* [2003], by Piero Guccione was placed in this room in 2003.

### Ostrich Hall

This room boasts a splendid sixteenth-century coffered ceiling, in the centre of which the figure of an ostrich takes pride of place. According to some, the ostrich may have been chosen to symbolise Margaret of Austria's original lineage, through a play on words between *Autriche* [Austria] and *autriche* [ostrich]. Others are





convinced, however, that this bird was chosen as a heraldic symbol of speed and precedence, or of steadfastness and strength, or as a symbol of passionate love. In any event, the ostrich was adopted as an emblem by an important figure in the Medici family who held no religious position, as testified by the crown on the bird's head.

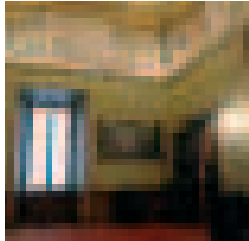
### **Risorgimento Hall**

This room contains busts and portraits of some of the most important figures of the Italian Risorgimento, in a studied arrangement in which democratic republicans alternate with liberal constitutionalists, the two movements that characterised the Kingdom of Sardinia after 1848. The frieze depicts events from the reign of Clement VII.



### **Signature Hall**

It bears this name because senators used to sign an attendance register in this room. The walls are hung with three tapestries from the Medici collection, illustrating the story of Tobit and his son Tobias from the Catholic Bible. The coffered ceiling with its gilt decorations dates from the seventeenth century, as does the frieze with its little putti, fruit, vine leaves, flowers, and medallions depicting historical events from the time of Cardinal Alessandro de' Medici, the future Pope Leo XI.

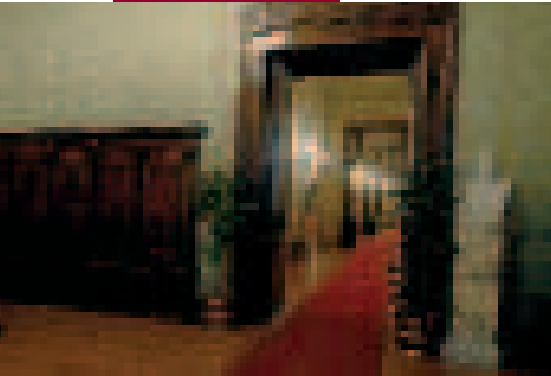


### **Marconi Hall**

A frieze attributed to Pietro Paolo Baldini, depicting episodes from the reign of Pius IV, ornates this recently restored room. The Marconi Hall houses the busts of Guglielmo Marconi and Pietro Canonica and two paintings by Giovanni Paolo Pannini [1691-1765] depicting views of the Forum and the Baths of Diocletian.

### **Antechamber of the Balustrade**

The gilded wooden ceiling and frieze date from the seventeenth century. On the walls are two works by Biagio Falcieri [1628-1703]: the first depicting Zeuxis, an ancient Greek painter, choosing the most beautiful features of a number of young girls to paint Ideal Beauty; and the second showing Alexander the Great ordering Apelles to paint a portrait of Campaspe,



and one by Carlo Dolci [1616-1686], entitled *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist*.

### Choir Hall

Its walls are lined with the chair backs of a seventeenth-century walnut choir stall from a seminary in Ancona. The circular wrought-iron chandelier was made by Alberto Gerardi [1889-1965] without welding. This room also contains busts of Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, Francesco Saverio Nitti and Luigi Einaudi.

### Pannini Hall

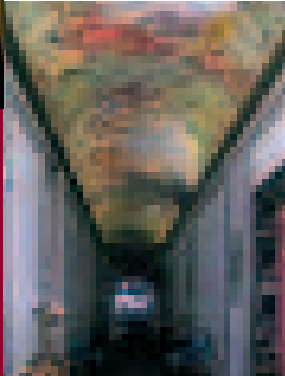
This room houses a fresco painted in 1725-26 by Pannini [1691-1765], formerly located in Palazzo Bacheloni in Via del Tritone, which was due for demolition under the 1926 city plan. In the centre of the ceiling is a Sun Chariot enveloped in thick banks of cloud from which radiate imaginary architecture, aerial perspectives, allegorical figures, putti, amphorae and garlands of flowers. The Senate Bureau and the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders meet in this room.

### Corridor of the Hero

The more important of the two corridors next to the sitting chamber is the Corridor of the Hero, named after the fresco by Lodovico Gimignani [1643-1697] decorating the ceiling. The fresco originally adorned a corridor in the now demolished Palazzo Carpegna, and was probably made to extol the memory of the legendary founder of the family. In the middle picture, the Hero escorted by Hercules receives the solemn recognition of his feats from Jupiter, who is sitting next to Mars and Venus. The trumpets of fame announce his glory. The pagan theme of this fresco is a rarity for the historical period in which it was painted.

### Cavour Hall

This room houses the two friezes that formerly decorated the wall that used to divide Italy Hall. An oval painting of Bacchus and Ariadne by Giambattista Pittoni [1698-1767] is nested in the middle of the coffered ceiling. The room is open to members of the government during sittings and is occasionally used for meetings of the Council of Ministers.







### Senate Chamber

The Senate Chamber, designed by Luigi Gabet, occupies the former courtyard of the old papal Post Office. In the 1930s, the galleries of the Deputies and Diplomatic Corps, supported by pillars rising from the floor, were replaced by higher overhanging galleries. Other alterations were also made to the middle aisle to increase the number of seats, but the original structures and the decorations in this room have remained virtually unchanged.

The ceiling is the work of little-known artists [Fumanti, Nava, Bruschi, Mei, Barilli and Gai], and features symbolic representations of Strength, Justice, Concord and Law.

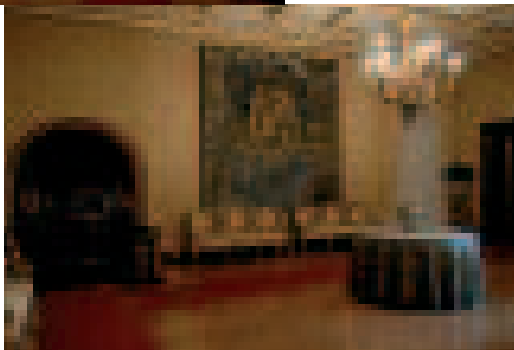
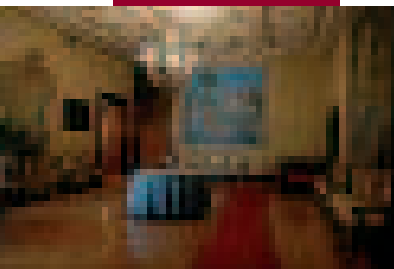
### Second floor

#### The President's Office

The windows of the office of the President of the Senate in Palazzo Madama overlook the dome of the Baroque Church of Sant'Agnese in Piazza Navona. The room is decorated with a painting from the school of Bonifazio Veronese, *Adoration of the Magi*, and, on the opposite wall, a portrait of a man by Gerrit van Honthorst [1590-1656], a Dutch Mannerist painter known in Italy as Gherardo delle Notti [Gerard of the Night Scenes] because of his many candlelit nocturnal paintings. There is also a painting on a Gospel theme by the Neapolitan artist Luca Giordano [1632-1705]: *Render unto Caesar the Things which are Caesar's*. Between the two windows hangs the fifteenth-century *Virgin and Child with Saint John and Saint Blaise* [in the manner of Pinturicchio] and on the opposite wall a tapestry showing Aristotle with his pupil Alexander of Macedonia [the future Alexander the Great].

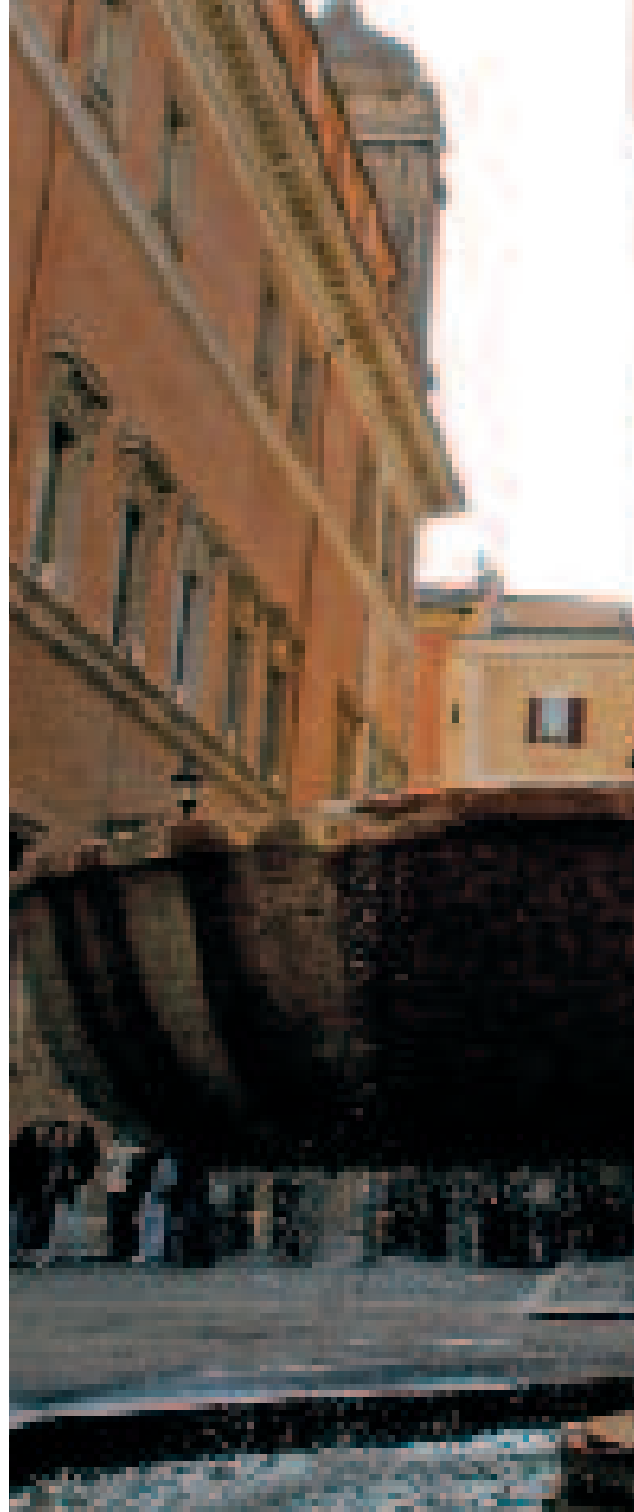
#### Antechamber of the Quaestors

This room, which overlooks the Palm Courtyard, is reached by means of an elaborate wooden staircase behind the Public Gallery. Two tapestries adorn the walls: *Narcissus*, 330 x 330 cm., wool woven with high heald looms by the Scassa Tapestry Manufactory at Asti according to a design by Corrado Cagli [1910-1976]; and *Prudence*, from the seventeenth century. On the wall to the right of the wooden staircase hangs *Triumph of Reason* [2003], a painting by Sandro Chia.



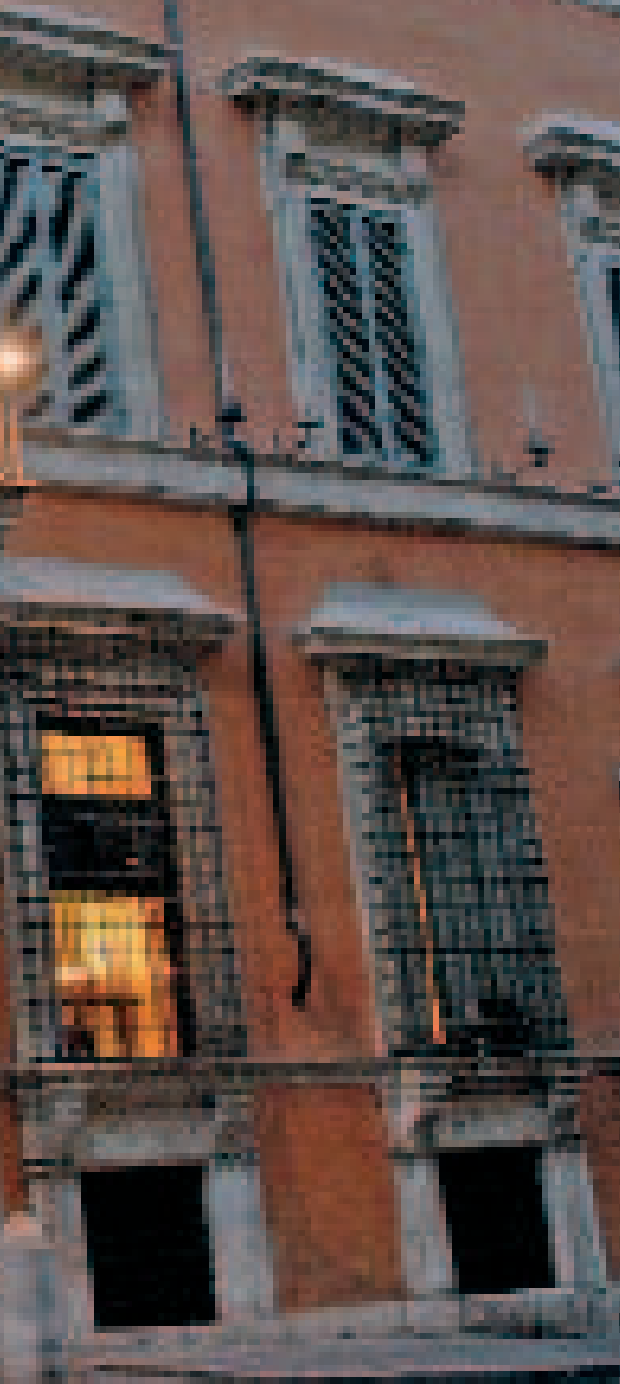
## Palazzo Carpegna

The former Palazzo Baldinotti Carpegna was built in the late 17th century, to a design by Giovanni Antonio de' Rossi [1619-1695] in its present location. In the early 1900s, it housed part of Rome University, until this was relocated in 1930. Following the adoption of the city development plan in 1926, the building was demolished and later rebuilt. The new façade was torn down and rebuilt further back to make room for a wider Corso Rinascimento. In the 1940s, when the building was connected to Palazzo Madama, more space was needed to build a wider road [Via della Dogana Vecchia] behind it. The two buildings were connected with a two-storey portico with granite columns in 14th-century style. The upper level portico has ionic columns and features large windows. The ground floor portico is open and is lined with Tuscan columns. The triangle between the portico, Palazzo Madama, the Crescenzi Tower and the building designed by Koch is known as the Palm Garden, or Cardinal John's Garden. A fresco by Lodovico Gimigniani representing the founder of the Carpegna family was detached from this building, using a very advanced technique for that age, and moved to a gallery in Palazzo Madama, renamed the Gallery of the Hero after the fresco. Senate Standing Committees meet in Palazzo Carpegna. It was for this reason that the building was recently renovated, to make the most of its ample spaces, adopting innovative and prestigious architectural solutions which successfully combine sober elegance and state-of-the-art functionality.





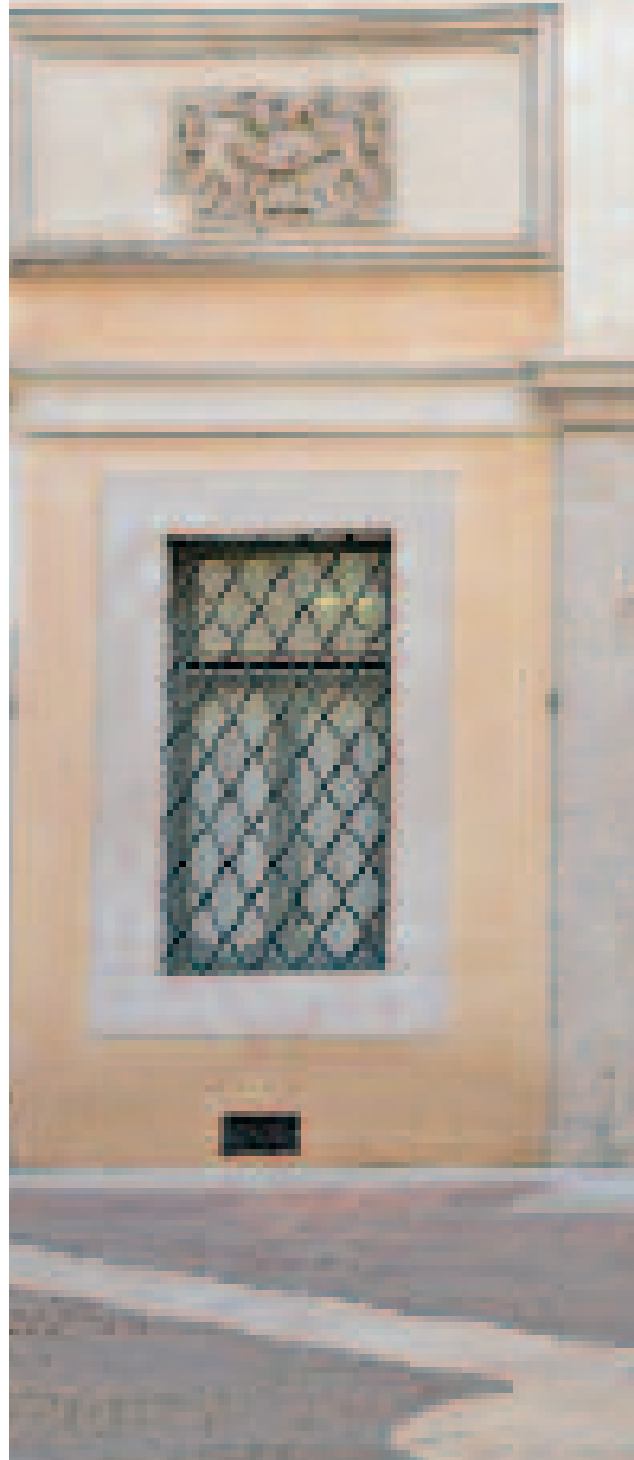




## Palazzo Giustiniani

The original core of Palazzo Giustiniani was built at the end of the sixteenth century by Mgr Francesco Vento. The building was sold on 4 July 1590 to Giuseppe Giustiniani, a member of one of Genoa's richest and most powerful families. The Giustiniani family, at one time governors on behalf of Genoa of their native island of Chios, was forced to abandon the island in 1566 because of Turkish aggression. They moved to Via della Dogana, in the financial and bureaucratic heart of papal Rome. In 1590 they bought the palazzo, which then took their name, and purchased other adjacent buildings over the following years. It would actually be more exact to talk in terms of merging various buildings, than the construction of a new palazzo, and the end result was a kind of "Giustiniani block" near the Pantheon. The family's art collection was housed in this building, which was rented out, fully or in part, to prelates and other eminent figures seeking prestigious accommodation. In the course of later extension work the main façade overlooking Via della Dogana was completed, and the interior of the building was altered. Among the many frescoed rooms, mention should be made of the Zuccari Hall, named after the artist Federico Zuccari [1539-1609] who painted the fresco on the ceiling. This is the only room left untouched by the many alterations to the building. It is entirely decorated with frescoes: the ceiling depicts five episodes from the stories of Solomon [Solomon anointed king, the construction of the temple, the judgement of Solomon, the children forced to stab their father's corpse, and in the centre, Solomon meeting the Queen of Sheba] and the four virtues attributed to him [Religion, Industry, Vigilance and Eloquence]. Near the corners of the ceiling there are some small landscapes in round frames. The walls were graced with female figures representing the virtues, but today the only visible full figure still remaining is Temperance, although fragments of the others may also be seen. All the decorations are arranged on a surface painted with grotesques, creating a magnificent overall effect, which is further enhanced by seventeenth-century tapestries. The Giustiniani family line died out at the end of the nineteenth century, after which the huge art collection

was broken up. But the Ministry of Education stepped in to halt this around the beginning of the twentieth century, transferring the most valuable pieces to the State. At about that time, part of the property was taken over by the savings bank Cassa di Risparmio di Roma and another part was entrusted to the Grand Orient Masonic Lodge of Italy. At the beginning of 1926, Mussolini accepted a request from the then President of the Senate of the Kingdom, Tommaso Tittoni, to permit the Senate to use Palazzo Giustiniani, although the Senate did not acquire almost complete use of the building until 1988. It was in this palazzo that Enrico De Nicola, then Italy's Acting Head of State, signed the Italian Constitution in 1947. The official apartment of the President of the Senate, the offices of *ex officio* and life senators and the Historical Archives, are currently located in the palazzo.









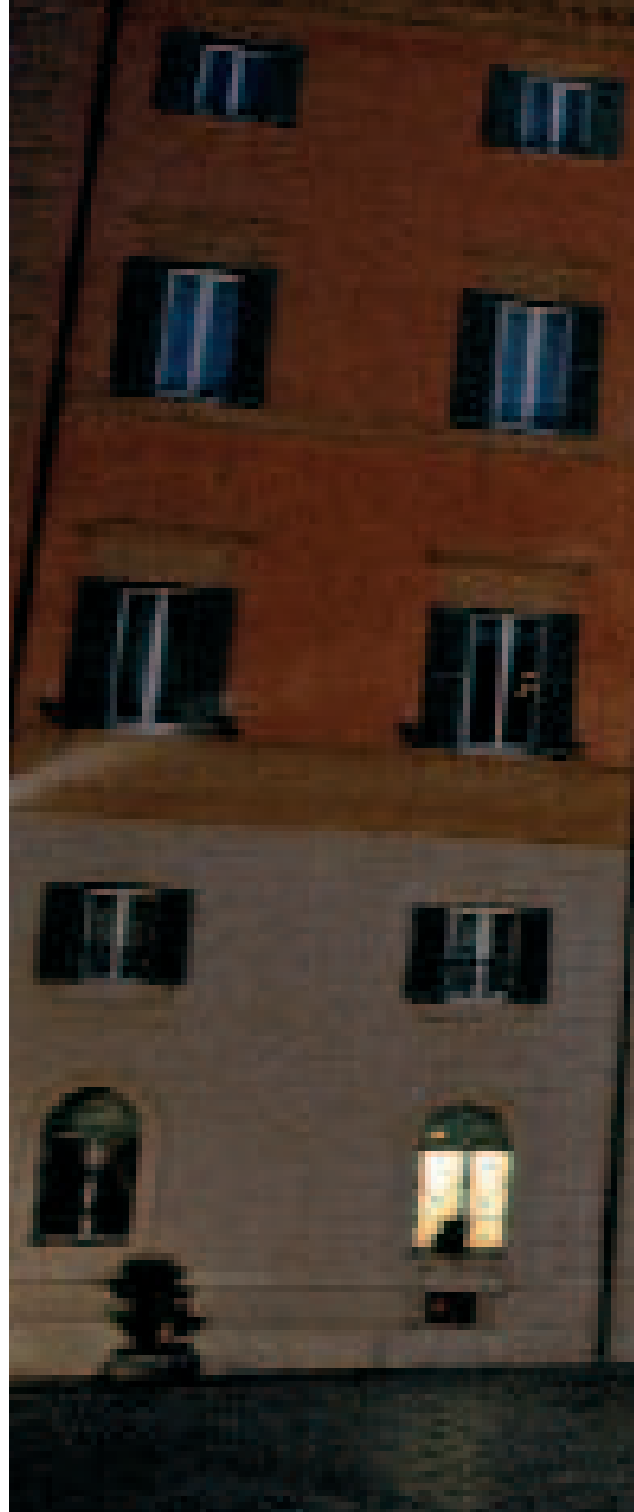


## Palazzo Cenci

This was Giulio Romano's first work as an architect. The façade is divided vertically into five sections. The middle section presents a gabled entrance door, while the four side doors are surmounted by imposing wedge-shaped ashlar slates, giving a powerful upward thrust to the building. The tension of the ashlar-work is tempered by the composed architectural layout of the *piano nobile*, and becomes a sheer rhythmic element in relation to the linear order of the second floor. In the courtyard, harmony of design is provided by flat ashlar-work at ground level and the slender two-storey trabeated loggia behind the front façade. Here again, Giulio Romano gave the language of the floors an abstract character. Recent restoration work has revealed false windows in the vaulted ceiling of the Blue Room and original frescoes in the ground floor hall, where the grotesques and vine bower frescoed on the ceiling are dominated by the arms of the Stati family, the original owners of the building. The *piano nobile* is decorated with fine frescos by artists of Raphael's school. A smaller room houses the sequence, *The Gods' Preferred Lovers*, a traditional motif of the time, while a second room houses an uninterrupted frieze, divided into false frames, spaced out by putti and female caryatides, and showing episodes from the life of Julius Caesar. Palazzo Cenci now houses the European Affairs Standing Committee, senators' offices and administrative services, in a spirit of conservation of the multifunctional tissue proper of the historic nature of the building.

## Palazzo Minerva

This palazzo stands in the square of the same name, to the left of the superb church and the old convent of the Dominican friars. The views of the square depicted in the 17th and 18th centuries bear witness of how the palazzo has changed. The obelisk in the middle of the square rests on a marble elephant, symbol of strength and wisdom, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and known as "Minerva's chick". From 1849 to 1867 the French troops defending the independence of the Papal States after the fall of the Roman Republic were quartered here. It subsequently became the seat of the Pontifical Latin-American College, which required extensive alterations, supervised by Andrea Busiri Vici *senior*. When Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, the Ministry of Education was transferred here, until it was relocated in Viale del Re [today, Viale di Trastevere] in the mid-1920s. It then housed the offices of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and later the Scientific Research Department. In 1991, Palazzo Minerva was transferred to the Senate, to house the new Library. The Senate Library, named after the late Senate President Giovanni Spadolini, was eventually moved here in spring 2003, after years of renovation work. The conference room on the first floor deserves a special mention. Its roof is made of plexiglas and steel. This hall houses the copper, bronze, white nickel and gold female figure cast in 2003 by Giuliano Vangi [the woman's downward look signifies, the artist explains, a love of silence and meditation]. The single-winged bronze angel in the adjoining church cloister is by Sandro Chia. The angel is raising a golden heart to the sky. In the intentions of the artist, this signifies that humankind should be united and sympathetic in order to attain its age-old aspiration to flight and freedom.







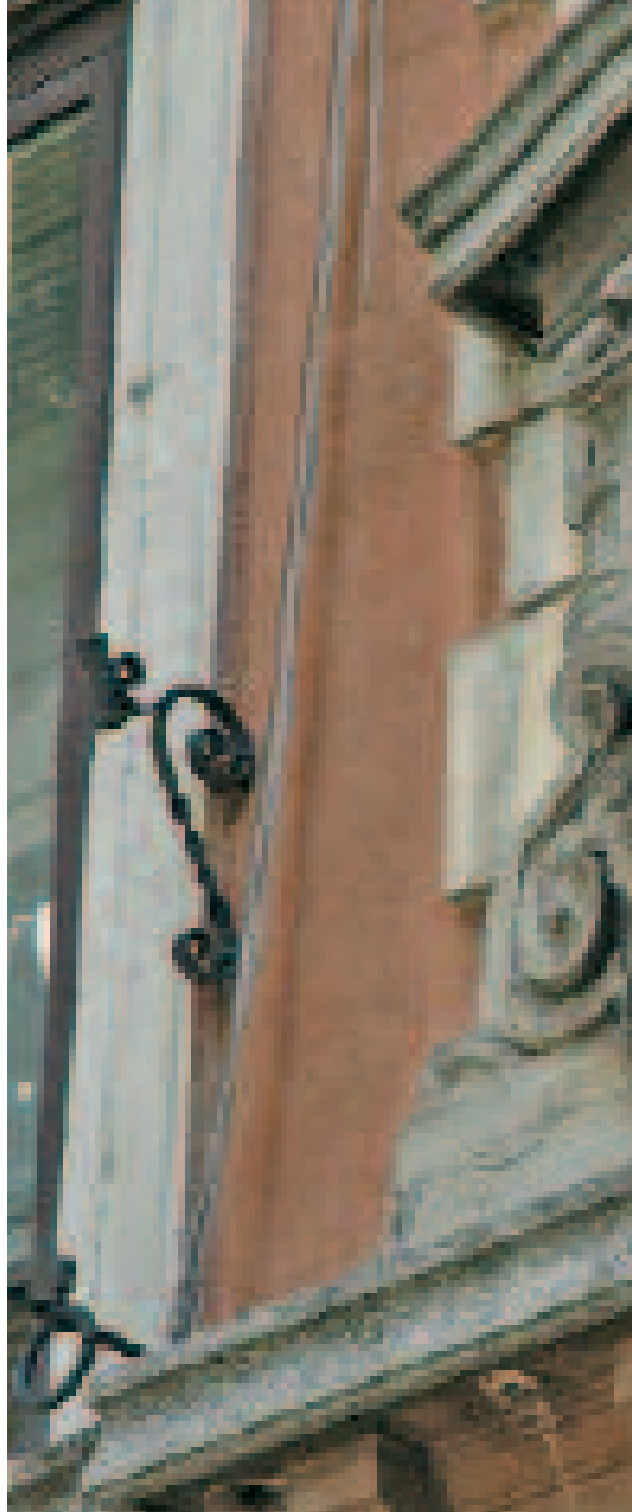


## Palazzo Sapienza

The outcome of a number of successive stratifications, it owes its name [meaning "wisdom"] to the *studium urbis*, the prestigious Rome University founded by Pope Boniface VIII in 1303. The university remained here until the early 1900s, when the State Archives were transferred to this building. A number of renowned architects took part in the construction, including Giacomo Della Porta and Dominichino, but its distinctive feature, the church with its majestic spiralling dome, was added by Francesco Borromini in 1643. The Senate Committee for Elections and Parliamentary Immunity and the Research Department are now located here.

## Building at piazza delle Coppelle

The building overlooks Piazza delle Coppelle and Via della Maddalena and houses senators' offices, logistic services and storage spaces. The Senate Bookshop – Official Information and Documentation Centre – is located at 27, Via della Maddalena. The Centre aims at facilitating relations between the Senate and the public, by disseminating information on Senate activity and making documentation on parliamentary work and Senate publications more widely available.











## Former Spanish property building

Built on the ruins of Nero's and Alexander's baths probably during the 1500s, it was radically altered by its Spanish owners during the two following centuries. In 1933, after a long series of changes of ownership and further alterations, it became the barracks of the Senate security service. It was purchased by the Government in 1980 and transferred to the Senate. Senators' offices are now located here.

### **Filippini building**

The State Police and Carabinieri detailed to the Senate are located here.

### **Building at largo de' chiavari**

Logistic services and guest quarters.

### **Former hotel Bologna**

Senators' offices and a conference room.

### **Building at piazza delle cinque lune**

Senators' offices and administrative services.

## Senate of the Republic

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piazza Madama - 00186 Roma  
www.senato.it

## Historical Archives

+39 06.6706.4785  
via Giustiniani, 11 - 00186 Roma  
Monday-Friday 9,30 • 16,30  
fax +39 06.6706.3606  
archivistorico@senato.it

## Library

+39 06.6706.3717  
piazza della Minerva, 38 - 00186 Roma  
Monday-Friday 9,00 • 19,30  
Saturday 9,00 • 12,30  
fax +39 06.6706.4338  
BibliotecaMinerva@senato.it

## Bookshop - Official Information and Documentation Centre

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via della Maddalena, 27 - 00186 Roma  
Monday-Friday 9,00 • 18,30  
fax +39 06.6706.3398  
libreria@senato.it

## Parliamentary information

+39 06.6706.3430  
Information is provided in Italian on Senate business during the present and past terms.  
Mondays and Fridays 9,30 • 13,00 and 14,00 • 17,00  
Tuesdays through Thursdays 9,30 • 13,00 and 14,00 • 20,30  
infopoint@senato.it

## Attending sittings

+39 06.6706.2430  
To attend Senate sittings a request should be sent by mail to Servizio di Questura e del Cerimoniale - Senato della Repubblica - piazza dei Caprettari, 79 - 00186 Roma - Italy or by fax to +39 06.6706.3513.  
Proof of identity for each visitor

and a contact telephone number should be attached to the request. Italian-speaking schoolchildren attending sittings may also take part in training programmes at the Senate Bookshop [telephone enquiries: +39 06.6706.2933].  
fax +39 06.6706.3513  
VisitealSenato@senato.it

## Visiting Palazzo Madama

+39 06.6706.2430  
Public guided tours in Italian of Palazzo Madama are held on the first Saturday of the month. Schools and associations may book a guided tour. Italian-speaking schoolchildren attending sittings may also take part in training programmes at the Senate Bookshop [telephone enquiries: +39 06.6706.2933].  
fax +39 06.6706.3513  
VisitealSenato@senato.it

## A Day in the Senate Training and Educational Programmes

+39 06.6706.3624  
Italian-speaking students [age 17-18] may take part in educational programmes run by the Senate Official Information Office, in co-operation with all other Senate departments. School class selection criteria have been agreed with the Ministry of Education and calls for application are published on the Ministry's website.

## Recruitment Office

+39 06.6706.5107-5108  
Information in Italian on jobs available in the Senate may be obtained from the Personnel Department.  
Monday-Friday 9,30 • 12,30 and 15,00 • 17,00

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