

Dear Friends and Members of the European Public Choice Society and of the Public Choice Society:

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of Domenico da Empoli at the age of 75. An Emeritus, and formerly Full Professor of Public Finance at Sapienza – Università di Roma, Domenico will be remembered as a learned and courteous person who has been a pivotal figure for the development of the study of public choice in Italy. He was an active and convinced guardian of the Italian tradition of Public Finance, whose excellence has been recognized by his friend James M. Buchanan on more than one occasion.

Domenico was educated at Sapienza – Università di Roma, at the University of Illinois, and at the University of Chicago. He was a member of SIEP, the Italian Society of Public Economics, also serving as Vice-President 1994-2000. For about twenty years he was the coordinator of the Ph.D program in “Economic, Mathematical and Statistical Analysis of the Social Phenomena” at Sapienza – Università di Roma.

Eclectic in his research interests, he had deep interests in the history of Italian economic thought and in the economics of institutions. He very much enjoyed the process of reading, collaborating, and writing, bringing depth and breadth to all his work. He is author of various publications, in Italian and in English, on fiscal federalism, on the theory of public goods, and on the functioning of the liberal democracy. Above all, he was a humanist.

In 1966 Domenico was exposed to the Public Choice school during his American research and study period and since then he was actively engaged in this research field. In 1983 he founded the first European journal of Public Choice: *Economia delle scelte pubbliche/Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*. The *Journal*, which occupied a significant amount of his research time, published contributions by several prominent scholars, and will continue to be published.

Domenico also covered several prestigious institutional roles. He represented Italy at both the United Nations (New York and Geneva) and at the OECD by serving on the Competition Committee and participating in the works of the Diplomatic Conference that established the International Criminal Court.

In 1979 Domenico joined the Italian delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. He was elected in 1995 to the Seabed Authority Finance Committee and re-elected in 2001 for another five years. He has been Chairman of the Committee for another four years and later Chair of the Council of the International Seabed Authority. Domenico also represented Italy in other international fora, including the ISAR Group at UNCTAD (for which he served as Vice-President cum Rapporteur in 2000) and the OECD (Joint Committee for Trade and Competition, of which he served as Vice-President).

He was a beloved friend and respected member of both the European Public Choice Society and the Public Choice Society. Please join us in expressing our deepest condolences to Domenico's family, and also to his many friends everywhere.

Emma Galli

Giampaolo Garzarelli