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PRESS RELEASE

DONATIONS MADE SAFE: NOTARIES AND CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS OFFER GUIDELINES

***Eighth Citizens' Guide
freely available via internet, iPhone and iPad***

Rome, 13 June 2012 – The National Council of Notaries and 11 Consumer Associations (Adoc, Altroconsumo, Assoutenti, Casa del Consumatore, Cittadinanzattiva, Confconsumatori, Federconsumatori, Lega Consumatori, Movimento Consumatori, Movimento Difesa del Cittadino, Unione Nazionale Consumatori) this morning presented the eighth “Citizens' Guide” which covers the complex question of donations. The publication is further evidence of how this collaboration is working to provide practical assistance to the general public.

The new Guide, “**Informed Donations. Disposing of One's Assets Safely**”, is intended as a practical reference for citizens who – out of gratitude, affection, charity or for some other reason – choose to transfer an asset as a donation without expecting anything in return. For this, every aspect must be clear: which parties can donate or receive, the form the contract must have in order for the donation to be valid, the saleability of the assets and the fiscal regulations, to name but a few.

The Guide also provides exhaustive answers to the most frequently asked questions, such as the choice between donation and legacy or between donation and annuity. A question that is often asked is whether it is better to defer distribution of one's wealth, using a will or the intestacy laws to regulate the operation, or to plan one's succession during one's lifetime by way of a series of donations to relatives or non-profit bodies. In both cases, care must be taken not to infringe the provisions of the law in terms of hereditary rights. The inherent complexity of these matters means, in order to act in the safest possible way, seeking advice in advance from notaries and Consumer Associations – each for their own areas of expertise – given that they are all readily available to provide the necessary information.

What do Italians do? In 2009 in Italy 192,536 donations were made, half of which had to do with residential property (Istat data, *Focus*, 30 March 2011). Specifically, 50.4% of the total (97,074) involved dwellings and related appurtenances, 22% involved land (42,384), 7% shares in private companies, 5.5% ownership of urban or agricultural property with reserved usufruct and 2.7% involved the transfer of companies.

The Italians' tendency to make donations has grown over the years: between 2000 and 2009 the index calculated in fixed currency terms for overall donations showed an increase of 57.5%. In particular, there was more than a twofold rise in donations of dwellings and related appurtenances (+103.8%), while those of land grew 10.8%. The largest increases were in 2001 and 2006, following important changes to the rules on taxation of legacies and donations.



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In the South in 2009 there were 492.1 donations for every 100,000 inhabitants, in the Islands 359.9, in the North-West 237, in the North-East 306.5 and in Central Italy 215.9. The regions with the lowest number of donations per head of population were Tuscany (146.4 per 100,000 inhabitants), Emilia-Romagna (207.9) and Lombardy (227). The three regions having the highest number of donations per head of population, instead, were Basilicata (763.7 per 100,000 inhabitants), Trentino-Alto Adige (737.8) and Val D'Aosta (654.3).

This Guide, like the seven preceding ones (two on Home Loans and Mortgages, Price Value, Preliminary Contracts, Purchases Off-the-Plan, Certified Purchases and Safe Succession), may be downloaded free of charge from the National Council of Notaries' website (www.notariato.it) and from the sites of the Consumer Associations that took part in the initiative, as well as being available for iPhone and iPad by way of the iNotai app.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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