

“MARCH FOR A SIGNATURE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT”

PRESS RELEASE - Rome, January 16, 2017

On January 22, 2017 Graziano Marcelli, aged 50 and jobless, will start his march from the Italian – French border of Ventimiglia, with Rome as final destination. Marcelli is going to walk along coastal Via Aurelia built by the Romans in the 3rd century B.C., now a modern State road, with the aim of raising awareness on the desperate situation of thousands of Italian seniors like him. To this purpose he will collect signatures of citizens supporting his petition (see below), and plans to hand them over to President Sergio Mattarella at the latter’s offices in Palazzo del Quirinale.

Graziano Marcelli was born in 1966 and dropped out of school at 14. He worked mainly as delivery man for express couriers; but recently, after sending out many résumés, he only found fixed-term or low-paid jobs such as entertainment staff either in summer holiday villages or for private parties. His earnings do not allow him to make ends meet. He says: “Thousands of citizens are in this condition. The State should be responsible for offering a new job to unemployed people. Only those who work can make our wonderful Country thrive again”.

ATDAL Over 40 was the first Italian non-profit association (in the year 2005) to present to both Chambers of Parliament a 3,700 signatories-strong petition for unemployed senior people, and from that moment it has been supporting other petitions with the same purposes. Now ATDAL Over 40 is asking people to support Graziano Marcelli in many ways, e.g. marching together with him, hosting him in hotel rooms, private houses or even campers along Via Aurelia, or donating small amounts of money.

This is the simple text of Marcelli’s petition:

“We, the undersigned Italian citizens,

whereas unemployment jeopardises freedom and equality, and stymies full development of the human being,

request:

- Three job proposals from the State, taking into consideration the physical conditions of the unemployed person;

- a monthly State allowance, that shall be (i) reduced by one third at every refusal of the State job proposal by the unemployed person, and (ii) revoked if the unemployed person rejects all three State job proposals received”.

Marcelli also created an online petition which you can sign here (*)

<https://firmiamo.it/sensibilizzazione-al-sussidio-ai-disoccupati-e-inoccupati/aftersign>

(*) only for Italian residents – area post code required. European citizens who wish to sign the petition should fill in a form (to be requested by mail to info@atdal.it) and send it back to the address indicated in the form.

And this is the link to petition’s FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/A-piedi-per-una-firma-1650044881960589/?fref=ts>

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ATDAL Over 40 (short for “Associazione nazionale per la tutela dei diritti dei lavoratori over 40” - National Association for the protection of the rights of workers aged 40 +) is a non-profit entity established in Milan in 2002 by a group of unemployed citizens, forced to leave their jobs as a consequence of dismissals or individual resignations and not yet entitled to receive a pension from the State welfare system.

ATDAL Over 40 has been engaging political parties, public authorities and mass media by carrying out projects and actions aimed at helping 40+ unemployed people to re-enter the job market and lobbying to expand the current welfare protection system. ATDAL Over 40 also develops educational and information campaigns to raise awareness and effect behavioral change among employers, older learners and workers as well as the general public.

The purposes of ATDAL Over 40 are:

- To represent senior workers (aged 40 to 65) faced with hurdles that prevent them from re-entering the job market, and to address the consequences that such situations can bring about (family crises, social downsides, depression-related illnesses, etc.);
- To lobby for legislative solutions in the field of job regulation, aimed at protecting senior workers forced out of the job market while still far from retirement age;
- To lobby for legislative solutions aimed at: making it easier for senior workers to reach the right to retire, using State and local welfare instruments in their favor, and overcoming obstacles that arise from outdated laws which have become inadequate to the Italian economy and society;
- To demonstrate and enhance senior workers’ professional skills and expertise;
- To support and ease the re-hiring of unemployed senior people;
- To promote networking and business/start-up cooperation among members.

For more information (in Italian) please visit ATDAL website: www.atdal.eu

PHOTO-GALLERY

1. Graziano Marcelli



2. Map shown on petition FB page:



3. Official banner of the petition:

