

## REFERENDUMS JUNE 2005

### Law 459 of 27 December 2001 containing

#### “Provisions governing the right to vote of Italian citizens resident abroad”

#### 1. What is the poll about?

On **12 June 2005** voting will take place for **four referendums** concerning the repeal of some of the provisions of Law 40 of 19 February 2004 on medically assisted reproduction. The provisions in question are:

- Limits to clinical and experimental research on embryos
- Rules governing limits to access
- Rules governing objectives, the rights of the persons involved and limits to access
- Ban on heterologous fertilisation

#### 2. Who can vote?

- a. **All Italian citizens resident abroad and registered in the electoral register may vote by correspondence.**

#### 3. How does voting take place?

Italian citizens living abroad may express their vote **by correspondence**, using the postal system, as envisaged by the following provisions of Law 459/2001:

- a. By **25 May** the Consular offices will send to all those voters who have not taken up the option to vote in Italy **a pack** containing:
- **their voting certificate** (i.e. the document certifying their right to vote);
  - **four ballot papers** in different colours, one for each referendum;
  - **two envelopes** of different sizes;
  - **the text of Law 459/2001 and the present information sheet.**
- b. Voters should express their vote by **marking** each ballot paper (for example with a cross or a line) inside the rectangle continuing their chosen reply (YES or NO) **using a pen with black or blue coloured ink ONLY.**
- c. Voters should then place all four ballot papers in the smaller, **blank white envelope**, which should then be closed and sealed. This sealed envelope, together with the **counterfoil** from the voting certificate (the counterfoil should be detached from the certificate by tearing or cutting along the dotted line) should then be placed in the **larger, pre-stamped envelope** bearing the address of the voter's Consulate (see diagram).
- d. **The pre-stamped envelope** should be returned to the Consular Office **by post as soon as possible** and in any case in time for it to reach the Consular Office no later than **9 June 2005. Any ballot papers received after that date will not be scrutinised and will therefore be destroyed.**

#### PLEASE NOTE

- **NO IDENTIFYING MARK OF ANY KIND SHOULD APPEAR ON THE BALLOT PAPERS, THE SEALED ENVELOPE OR THE COUNTERFOIL**
  - **BOTH THE SEALED ENVELOPE AND THE BALLOT PAPERS MUST BE WHOLE AND UNDAMAGED**
  - **THE NAME OF THE SENDER MUST NOT BE WRITTEN ON THE PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPE**
- e. Any voters who, by 29 May, have not received the voting pack at their home address, may obtain one by visiting their Consulate **in person** to verify their electoral status and apply for a duplicate pack.