Authors,  
Dear guests,  
Dear colleagues,  
Students,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  

It is a pleasure and honour to open this ceremony for the conferring of the honorary professorship Bruno Kessler to Jean-Paul Fitoussi, a person whom I estimate for his human and professional qualities. As an economist, he has given fundamental contributions in the field of theory of general economic equilibrium, of macroeconomics and economic politics. His thought has been constantly oriented towards the promotion of welfare and social fairness, and he has had a fundamental role in the education of many Italian economists.

My colleagues Enrico Zaninotto and Roberto Tamborini, who will soon introduce Jean-Paul Fitoussi through the texts prepared for this special occasion by professor Kumaraswamy Velupillai, will surely have much to say about him and the precious contribution that his work has given to macroeconomic theory and economic politics.

For this reason I would like to stop here, but before concluding let me thank Jean-Paul Fitoussi in the first place for being here, but also all the people who have come today to share this special moment with us. I believe that such occasions always represent a precious opportunity to increase and enrich the whole community, not only the scientific one.

I wish you a pleasant ceremony!