On behalf of the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, I am pleased to greet those participating in this meeting and particularly Professor Edoardo Barbieri, who promoted it. It moves me to think that, today, scholars from various fields have converged around this beautiful text in one of the places described by Rustici himself. Therefore, this is a very significant moment on both a cultural and political level, because it shows that, yet again, art and culture are able to help people dialogue, often overcoming obstacles and a sense of mistrust that seemed unbridgeable. We are also proud that our Foundation has been part of this important process. Through the Codex Rustici, it is Florence that speaks to you in the wake of a tradition spanning centuries, in which it is increasingly open and interested in bringing countries together to address the great issues concerning humankind today. As you are about to begin your proceedings, I would like to thank the Library of the Seminario Arcivescovile Maggiore in Florence and the Olschki publishing house for sharing with us the completion of this priceless edition, which has been a truly unique experience for everyone involved.

Umberto Tombari
President, Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze