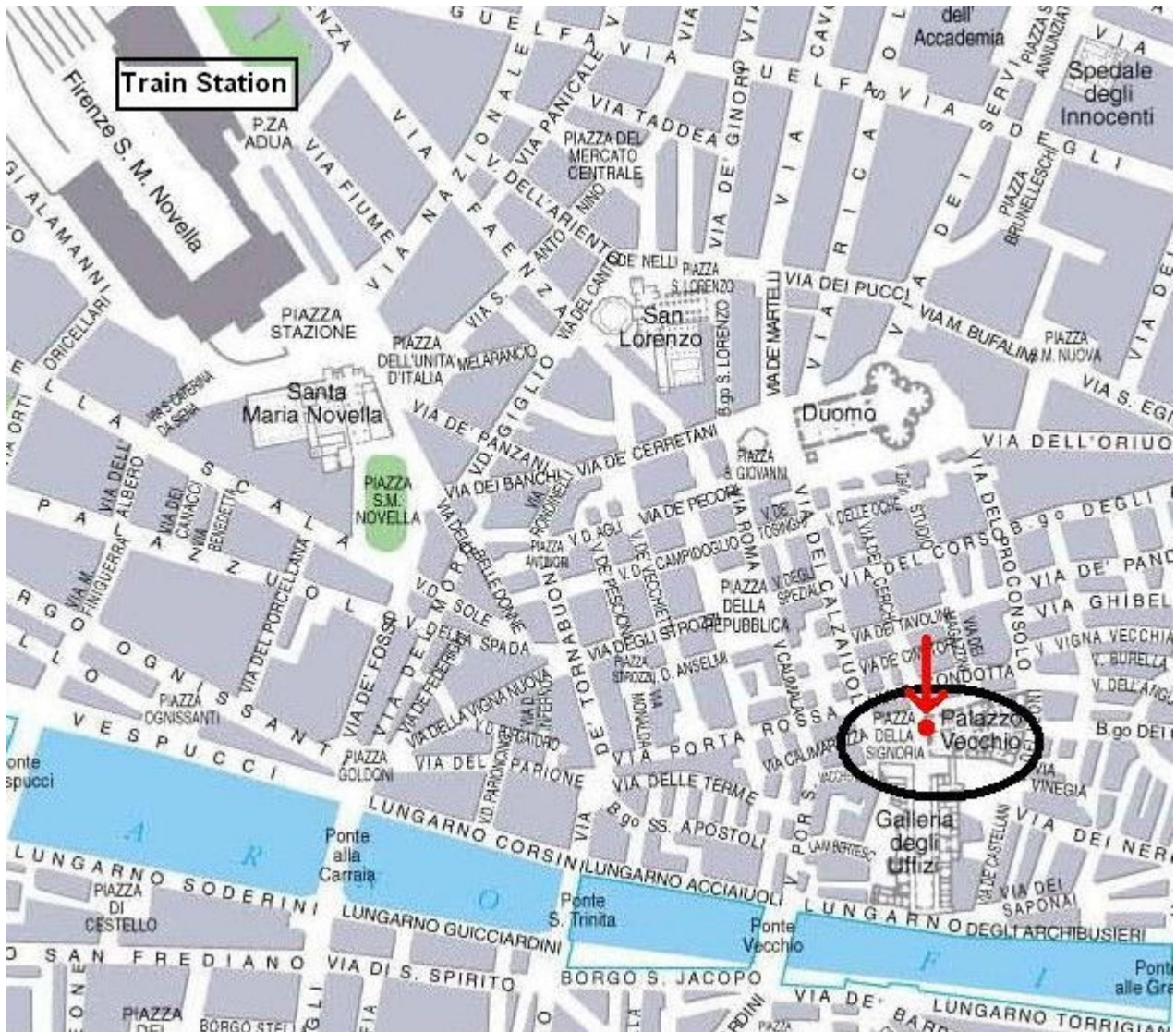




FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

17th –18th of September 2004,
Salone del Cinquecento, Palazzo Vecchio,
Florence

Map of Florence



Please note:

The Conference will be held at *Salone dei Cinquecento*, located in *Palazzo Vecchio*,
Piazza Della Signoria.

Brief History of *Palazzo Vecchio*



The original building was designed by Arnolfo di Cambio between 1299 and 1314; its façade must have been on the left side of the edifice, which had well spaced windows and a central doorway. The courtyard was built by Michelozzo around 1444; it leads up to the Salone dei Cinquecento. In the sixteenth century, Vasari restructured the interior of the building, leaving the exterior intact, in keeping with the orders of Cosimo I, who made Palazzo Vecchio his private residence when the Medici were restored to power. Vasari carefully calculated the horizontal and vertical relations between the storeys, and created a harmonious interior; Vasari's design, as well as the beautiful interior decorations, elevated Palazzo Vecchio to a symbol of mannerist taste. The architecture is enhanced by painted and sculpted images: the richest example of such decorations can be seen in the "Studiolo" of Francesco I; the city and landscapes symbolise the harmony between the Medici's power and the urban layout, as can be seen in the work of Stefano Buonsignori in the Palazzo's Map Room.

Palazzo Vecchio: Salone dei Cinquecento

When Savonarola (who came to power after the expulsion of Piero de' Medici in 1494) restored the Florentine Republic, he instituted a Grand Council of 500 members: Cronaca, Francesco di Domenico and Antonio da Sangallo were entrusted with the creation of the council room, which was ready by February 1496. The decoration of the walls began in 1503-04, under the government of Pier Soderini: Leonardo and Michelangelo were asked to paint the Battles of Anghiari and of Cascina, respectively, but they only completed the cartoons. The painting was completed by Vasari in 1563.

