

**Date and Time:** Friday 15 January 2021 10:02:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134155329

**Documents (42)**

1. [*Letters of the summer;WRITE TO THE COURIER*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KWX1-JDMV-K22Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** european union ORueOReuro\*OReu

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Aug 09, 2020 Until Aug 09, 2020 |

2. [*Recovery Fund, supervises rocker with middle school diploma; measures*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KWX1-JDMV-K21P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Aug 09, 2020 Until Aug 09, 2020 |

3. [*Funds for the South, protests from the North (also from the PD); August decree*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KWX1-JDMV-K21T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Aug 09, 2020 Until Aug 09, 2020 |

4. [*Transfer union that (political) risk for Italy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60NK-58M1-F13X-93D1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Aug 24, 2020 Until Aug 24, 2020 |

5. [*Viminale stops Musumeci "We decide on migrants"; the front between state and regions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60NK-58M1-F13X-936X-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Aug 24, 2020 Until Aug 24, 2020 |

6. [*Brexit, final act Johnson threatens exit without agreement*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-R0W1-JDMV-K05C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

7. [*The Recovery Fund plan: 110% ecobonus until 2024*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-R0W1-JDMV-K06D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8. [*Spread at 136, lowest since February Fewer EU restrictions until 2021*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93HY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9. [*Cirio proposal: "A bonus for those who do not dismiss";Labour*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93PD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10. [*Michel in quarantine, EU summit postponed;Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93GW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

11. [*"Now more teamwork" Zingaretti dictates his agenda; Post-voting scenarios "Security decrees in the first Council of Ministers". And presses on EU funds "Me in the government? I don't claim it". But Renzi also wants him vice-premier*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

12. [*"A political pact with the allies that will provide certainty for the entire legislature"; the Democrats*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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13. [*"The government is fine as it is" Conte closes to the reshuffle (and to the Mes);The backstory*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FP-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14. [*The Recovery Fund does not forget science; Analogue Natives Aged Digitally*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93JC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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15. [*Europe towards an agreement on internal travel;Foreground Restarting diplomacy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

16. [*Leave an MEP The League loses the primacy of the European Parliament; And Ceccardi remains in Strasbourg*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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17. [*Greek neo-Nazis: from Parliament to prison; The sentence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0P1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

18. [*"Let's open up outside politics and I want the liberal revolution"; the matteo salvini interview*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

19. [*Spain and France exceed one million And Berlin closes in on much of Italy;EUROPE*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2M3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

20. [*Poland,illegal abortion even in the most serious cases: the ultra-Catholic turnaround*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2MH-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

21. [*A PREMIER STILL STUCK TO THE LOGIC OF PHASE 1;The Note*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2M9-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

22. [*Resources, states and rules The EU Parliament's push for the Recovery Fund;Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617K-4M91-JDMV-K2S8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Time sequence: Nov 07, 2020 Until Nov 07, 2020 |

23. [*the (weak) challenge to this europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4FY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Nov 22, 2020 Until Nov 22, 2020 |

24. [*"This is the Italian proposal for European funds In Brussels at the beginning of 2021";Foreground The second wave vincenzo amendola*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Nov 22, 2020 Until Nov 22, 2020 |

25. [*"The centre-right only wins if we are there too"; the former Prime Minister's letter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Nov 22, 2020 Until Nov 22, 2020 |

26. [*"The centre-right only wins if we are there too"; the former Prime Minister's letter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4FV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Nov 22, 2020 Until Nov 22, 2020 |

27. [*Salvini, phone call with Berlusconi And proposes to federate the centre-right;Foreground The second wave the choices*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Nov 22, 2020 Until Nov 22, 2020 |

28. [*Yes to the EU budget Now it's Italy's turn on debt and recovery plan;In Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K23R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Dec 17, 2020 Until Dec 17, 2020 |

29. [*The Europe of rights walks; The Orbán case*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K22K-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Dec 17, 2020 Until Dec 17, 2020 |

30. [*Regeni murder, Italy now asks for Brussels' help The hypothesis of sanctions;Foreign Affairs*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K240-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Dec 17, 2020 Until Dec 17, 2020 |

31. [*First vaccines as soon as after Christmas;First plan Second wave the national plan*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K238-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Sources: Corriere della Sera (Italy); All Content Types: News; Timeline: Dec 17, 2020 Until Dec 17, 2020 |

32. [*Merkel freezes "Orbán case": no expulsions in the Populars;EU Parliament The EPP vote*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K241-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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33. [*Stock market 'sees' Brexit deal: pound at highs*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K244-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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34. [*The race for immunity: six countries have already started;Foreground The second wave THE RACE BETWEEN STATES*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K23D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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35. [*Vaccine, Piedmont anticipates early New Year; treatment and facilities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61J4-07S1-JDMV-K29Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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36. [*Europe says yes to Pfizer's vaccine: 'Valid even with mutated Covid';Close-up Second wave the new emergency*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9049-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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37. [*Mayors in the field: part of the European funds for cities; Forum on Corriere Tv with Sala, Nardella and the first citizen of Warsaw Trzaskowski*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-904M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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38. [*Half the world isolates Britain Virus variant scares stock exchanges;Close-up Second wave the new emergency*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9041-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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39. [*Conte ready to revise team for EU funds PD: no more immobilism; The back story*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-904V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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40. [*Queues at supermarkets, lorries stopped at Dover The Kingdom without Christmas is now really scared;The story*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9043-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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41. [*the season of alibis is over;Parties and audits*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-903V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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42. [*Merkel tightens lockdown: contacts at minimum; in europe Germany*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PC-CNF1-F13X-92P2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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Corriere della Sera (Italy)

9 August 2020 Sunday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** LETTERS TO THE COURIER; Page 23

**Length:** 726 words

**Body**

EU FUNDS AND RECOVERY

The money will come,

but let's move on to the attack

Dear Courier,

Over the last few decades, in our country, considerable ***European*** resources have been wasted and not used, and the regions have drawn up an endless series of projects that are useless for the development of the territories they administer. How many times have the news reports dealt with the ***European*** contributions that local administrations have not been able to spend. It seems paradoxical, but it has happened: we say that we need money and we fail to come up with a sensible idea for development. Is this going to happen now, with the Recovery Fund money? The request to set up another task force highlights the fact that the government still has no clear ideas on how to spend these funds, the opportunity is historic, having over 200 million ***euro*** would allow our country to get back on the right track of growth and development: will we waste this opportunity?

Sergio Guadagnolo

[*sergioguadagnolo@virgilio.it*](mailto:sergioguadagnolo@virgilio.it)

Dear Mr. Guadagnolo,

I agree across the board. Great wastage in past decades, opportunities that appear to be prairies for the coming months. Some regions, some local authorities specialised in the art of complaining and asking for things, forget about unspent contributions, unrequested funds, unrealised projects. But let us move on. ***Europe*** is extending its hand, resources will arrive, the country needs them. But we can choose defence or attack. Defence is the static approach: let's save the production system as it is now, let's mend the dress here and there, with a patch or a sticker, let's try to bring the hands back to the pre-pandemic moment. Attack is the boldest choice, but it is also the only one that makes sense. Designing the new instead of repairing the old. And therefore invest in the future, in growth: innovative ideas, emerging professions, production that has a future. From digital technology to the environment, from culture to tourism. The famous "snapshot" of the country that we have been dreaming of for years and that could now be achieved. Or try to. The point is not to fear ***EU*** controls. It is Italy itself that should 'control' itself: defined expenses, certain times, cost analysis. A breath of fresh air after the long depression. Now that the alibis of an 'indifferent' ***Europe*** and 'non-existent' funds have been dropped, Italy is faced with itself. Start now or whine tomorrow.

(Venanzio Postiglione)

MODERN TIMES

"We need to relaunch

a new ethic'.

As we know, the word ethics implies an irreproachable model of life in various public and private forms. Today, more than ever, it has become difficult to see someone who speaks and behaves in an appropriate manner, as we see in everyday life or through TV and press reviews. A new style of ethics needs to be relaunched. Times change and challenges for the human being are always just around the corner.

Massimo Aurioso

EXAMPLES

"The Genoa model

become the norm'.

On 3 August 2020 the new bridge in Genoa designed by Renzo Piano was inaugurated in a setting of great pride for the completion, in just two years, of such an impressive work, but also of sadness for the 43 lives that the collapse of the Morandi bridge took with it on 14 August 2018. The speeches by Mayor Bucci and Renzo Piano were both moving and moving: a team that, together with workers, managers and the government, was able to complete the reconstruction commitment made by Marco Bucci two years ago, working tirelessly, every day, 24 hours a day. I wonder, we wonder... does this mean that we are capable of designing well, building well, in a short time, with high standards of professionalism, without suffering from bureaucratic red tape! And why does this only happen in exceptional situations like Genoa? Well, what we have to learn from the Genoese company is that this modus operandi must become the norm, and not the exception! We can rise up against the evils that endemically afflict our country, which we must be able to reject by overcoming distrust and habituation, rallying around capable leaders like those seen in Genoa. However, we do not want to bother with big words such as Risorgimento, Renaissance... which also occurred in difficult situations in Italian history, perhaps similar to the one we have today.

Pino Zambetti

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Policy (94%); Economic Growth (88%); Globalization (75%); Business Forecasts (71%); Manufacturing Facilities (71%); Environment + Natural Resources (70%); Politics (69%); Ethics (63%); Hunger In Society (63%); Minority Groups (63%); Science Funding (63%)

**Industry:** Trains (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Recovery Fund, supervises rocker with middle school diploma; measures***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KWX1-JDMV-K21P-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

9 August 2020 Sunday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 8

**Length:** 497 words

**Byline:** Cesare Zapperi

**Highlight:** Ligurian MP: "I didn't finish high school because of health problems. But I've always worked honestly" M5S MEP Sergio Battelli chairs the ***EU*** Policies Commission

**Body**

MILAN He has an eighth grade education and can offer '10 years of professional experience as a pet shop assistant and guitarist in a Ligurian rock band'. These are rather weak references, perhaps, for chairing a parliamentary committee that deals with ***European Union*** policies, which now also has to supervise the management of the billion-dollar Recovery Fund.

But for Sergio Battelli, 37, a bright and easy-going Ligurian MP for the 5 Star Movement in his second term, this is not a problem at all. "I'm only chairman of a committee, I don't decide anything,' he explains seraphically to those who show astonishment. He certainly does not care that if he is in such a delicate position (he was confirmed in recent days, at the renewal of the presidency), more than to his talents he owes it to the close relationship of friendship and political militancy with Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio. The same one who wanted him to be treasurer of the M5S, in another role that - at least in appearance - would be difficult to reconcile with a modest degree. But Battelli has evidently always been able to demonstrate that the trust was well placed.

The MP is an eclectic character. He plays for pleasure in a rock band (the "Red Lips") and in 2019 he has released a record, Fall in love . "A record without too many pretensions", he clarified, "without too many filters, without too much perfection, with a few too many out-of-tune notes". Venial sins, music is now just a pastime. Ever since he became an MP in 2013 (in the Movement's primaries he took 90 votes, while in those preceding the 2018 elections he rose to 363 preferences) politics has been his sole and almost absorbing activity. And to those who malign his limited level of education, colleagues recall that Battelli from May 2013 to September 2014, was also chairman of the House Culture Committee.

Battelli responded to the controversy surrounding his confirmation as head of the Committee on ***EU*** Policies via Facebook: "A lot of people write to me to warn me and express their solidarity with me for bad articles, social posts and comments full of insults. As is my style, I "watch and pass" because I am used to these attacks that resurface every time I am elected - elected, not appointed -. It happened with the role of treasurer and then with that of chairman of the Committee on ***EU*** Policies at the Chamber of Deputies".

The 5 Star MEP calls for his role to be downsized. He explains why he did not go beyond the secondary school leaving certificate: "To say that everything is in my hands is flattering, but it is a huge fake news. I have never hidden the fact that I did not finish high school (I stopped at the fourth year) because of a serious health problem. Was it a mistake? Definitely, but I always continued to study and work honestly.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Tobacco + Health (78%); Foreign Policy (71%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (65%); Campaigns + Elections (62%); ***European*** Union (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Funds for the South, protests from the North (also from the PD); August decree***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JD-KWX1-JDMV-K21T-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

9 August 2020 Sunday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 545 words

**Byline:** Lorenzo Salvia

**Highlight:** Government asks Brussels to activate 'Sure', ***Europe's*** 28 billion unemployment plan

**Body**

ROME The plan for the South causes some grumbling in the North. The package of measures included in the "August" decree-law, with the 30% cut in contributions charged to companies, is causing some backlash. It is not only League leader Matteo Salvini who, for once together with Forza Italia, attacks the measure as a whole, saying that there is too little for businesses. But also the former secretary of the Democratic Party Maurizio Martina who, while not entering into the merits of the decree, invites his party to be attentive to the needs of the North: "I would like any anti-Northern sentiment to be diminished, just as it is always necessary to do so for any anti-southern logic". Traders and restaurateurs are disappointed by the disappearance of the consumption bonus, which provided for the direct reimbursement to customers of part of the expenditure. Even the tourism sector, despite the fact that there are 3 billion ***euros*** for this sector together with tourism, is asking for more to be done.

The text of the decree is still being refined. It should be published in the Official Gazette shortly before the mid-August holiday so as not to waste too many of the 60 days set aside for its conversion into law, given the mid-summer halt in Parliament. The text contains other interesting news. There is a substantial bonus for taxis and NCCs, the cars hired with drivers. A voucher of up to 20 ***euros*** per ride can be used by people with reduced mobility, people in economic difficulty due to the crisis caused by the pandemic, or in any case in a state of need living in the capital cities. It can be used for almost two million journeys, as 35 million ***euros have*** been allocated. The contribution for restaurateurs who have lost 25% of their turnover or more will be at least 2,500 ***euro,*** and will be used to buy food products made in Italy. There is also a curiosity concerning "amusement machines without cash winnings", pinball machines, foosball tables and the like. In the case of competitions, it is specified that the prizes must in all cases be of "modest value". The bringing forward of cashback, the incentive mechanism for traceable payments, to December, as opposed to January, should make it possible to hold a first prize draw as early as the Christmas holidays. Confirming the idea that Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had, before the whole cashback system was frozen due to the pandemic.

In the government's intentions this should be the last decree of the year to respond to the crisis caused by the pandemic. The measures for employment will cover the remaining weeks until the end of the year. The next step will be the draft budget law, to be passed after the summer, with measures to be implemented from January. And that will be preceded by the government's plan for ***European*** Recovery Plan funds. Yesterday, the Ministers of Labour and Economy, Nunzia Catalfo and Roberto Gualtieri, formally asked Brussels for the activation of Sure, the 28 billion ***euro European*** plan that can be used to "mitigate the risks of unemployment". Gualtieri himself, speaking of the "August" decree, said that the government had given a "new proof of cohesion and determination".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Excise Tax (94%); Economic Growth (81%); Gross Domestic Product (81%); Agriculture Regulation + Policy (64%); Corporate Tax (63%)

**Industry:** Forestry Regulation + Policy (67%); Organic Chemicals (64%)

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Transfer union that (political) risk for Italy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NK-58M1-F13X-93D1-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

24 August 2020 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 7

**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** Carlo Altomonte and Fabio Pammolli

**Highlight:** The ***EU*** cannot be a "transfer union". We need a common fiscal policy And the EU castle risks falling if we don't use the Recovery Fund properly Shifting resources from North to South without building continental public goods would fuel tensions and suspicions

**Body**

At the turn of 1789-1790, James Hamilton, Secretary of State, proposed that the nascent US federal government should take over the debts of the 13 founding states, giving impetus to the common fiscal policy of the United States of America. Two hundred and thirty years later, on the other side of the Atlantic, some commentators have used that precedent to comment on the ***European*** Council's agreement on the Recovery Fund: this introduces the possibility of issuing joint debt from ***European*** budget revenues, financed by all the states in proportion to their GDP and allocated according to the severity of the Covid crisis and not the economic weight of the countries. This is a bold comparison, although there are some points of contact. In both cases, one sees the traits of a 'Transfer Union', in which some richer states take on a high share of the common debt to the benefit of the poorer ones, who receive net transfers. But there are also profound differences. Hamilton's proposal was approved in a federal framework already embedded in a constitutional framework, albeit in its infancy, and in a political union that envisaged the construction of federal 'public goods'.

On the contrary, the compromise of the New Generation ***EU*** (NGEU), reached after bitter negotiations between "frugal" and "beneficiary" countries, provides that the greater transfers to the states should be matched by a reduction in spending on ***European*** "public goods". Although the NGEU leaves the overall volume of intervention unchanged (750 billion), it introduces two substantial changes compared to what was initially proposed by the Commission. Grants are reduced from 500 to 390 billion, while loans are cut from 250 to 360 billion. The reduction in subsidies affects the whole of the part of the package that, according to the Commission's intentions, should have strengthened business investment, their capital strengthening and their energy transition to environmental sustainability. These chapters remain as lines of action, but the resources are redistributed to the States according to the new mix of grants and loans, rather than being channelled into the ***European*** budget. Both the grants allocated to states to support recovery, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (***EUR*** 312.5 billion), and the allocations proposed by the Commission for individual countries remain unchanged.

Italy is the nation that benefits most from the new ***European*** programme, and in the national debate the final text was celebrated as a success and as a sign of renewed ***European*** cohesion in the face of Covid. In reality, while it is true that the discontinuity with respect to the past has been strong, the agreement presents some uncertainties on the Community integration front.

In particular, the Next Generation ***EU*** cannot and must not be a step towards that Union of transfers from the strong to the weak that some believe is the real goal to be achieved. This line of thinking is not only contrary to the Treaties, which prohibit permanent transfers between states, but is destined to produce disastrous results, containing a high political risk.

Returning to the comparison with American history, Princeton historian Harold James has reconstructed the negative effects and tensions of the transfer union initially conceived by Hamilton, up to the Civil War. Similarly, a ***European*** fiscal policy agreement that merely transferred resources from North to South without building continental public goods, and without a clear framework to balance solidarity, responsibility and devolution of fiscal sovereignty, would fuel tensions and suspicions of free-riding by the more fragile countries: sooner or later these tensions would be bound to incur harsh rebukes in the Dutch, Austrian and German ballot boxes.

In the immediate future, it is therefore important that the national recovery plans, which today are exclusively based on the reform needs of individual countries, recover a component of "***European***" expenditure through the coordination of the Commission, in order to substitute, from the perspective of individual countries, the construction of a common added value. Italy, the largest net beneficiary, remains the special observer of the northern European electorate. The future of community integration also depends on Italy's ability to reassure them.

Some might think that we are overloading the Recovery Fund agreement with excessive implications: in fact, it is not a common fiscal policy precedent and does not introduce any political risk, as it is designed as an exception to the EU budget, which already provides for its reabsorption. For at least four years, however, ***Europe*** will be one of the most important issuers of highly rated public bonds, helping to stabilise global financial markets. A step back to the world before the Recovery Fund, when the common ***European*** debt simply did not exist, may not be an easy task, just as the reabsorption of the protective curtain put in place by the unconventional monetary policies of quantitative easing has not been an obvious one. But if the common ***European*** debt is to remain a cornerstone of financial market stability, work is needed to develop a coherent fiscal framework: the alternative is a serious risk of political and economic destabilisation of the current set-up.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Public Debt (75%); Economic Growth (71%); ***European*** Union (69%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (69%); Politics (65%); Gross Domestic Product (62%)

**Industry:** Budgets (73%)

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Viminale stops Musumeci 'We decide on migrants'; the front between state and regions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NK-58M1-F13X-936X-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

24 August 2020 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 2

**Length:** 539 words

**Byline:** Giuseppe Alberto Falci

**Highlight:** The governor's order to evacuate the hotspots Compliments from Salvini and Meloni, criticism from the PD The 5 Stars against Taverna: she should rather think about enforcing the use of the mask

**Body**

ROME On Saturday night, the president of the Sicilian region, Nello Musumeci, banged his fists and signed an order stating that within 24 hours all the migrants present in the hot-spots and in every reception centre on the island must be transferred to facilities outside the island. Sicily cannot be invaded," he warns, "while ***Europe*** turns its back on them and the government does not activate any refoulement.

This triggered a tug-of-war that forced the Ministry of the Interior to state a few hours later that the matter 'does not fall under regional competence'. It follows that Musumeci's order has no value: 'The government is committed day and night to finding solutions to ease the pressure on Lampedusa and the whole of Sicily, but it is not clear what effect the order issued by the President of the Region may have. The governor's rejoinder: 'My order is null and void? We are going ahead. My measure serves to protect health.

At this point, the clash triggered the centre-right coalition, which applauded Musumeci's initiative. The League's secretary Matteo Salvini also supported the initiative: 'I congratulated Musumeci, a free man who said: "By tomorrow I don't want any more illegal immigrants in Sicily"'. The leader of Fratelli d'Italia, Giorgia Meloni, said: "Sicily, like the whole of Italy, cannot become the refugee camp of ***Europe because of the*** incompetence and the immigrationist fury of the Pd-M5S government. Mariastella Gelmini also spoke: "What should Musumeci do? He should wait for some timid move from Rome while his island is collapsing. Enough with this dangerous underestimation of a real problem.

In defence of the government come out the democrats with Stefano Ceccanti ("Immigration is an exclusive matter of the State"), Matteo Orfini ("The ordinance is illegitimate, I hope the government challenges it") and the Sicilian Carmelo Miceli, responsible for security of the Democratic Party: "The ordinance is confusing, technically fragile, contradictory, unenforceable, illegal and clearly in contrast with several rules of higher rank. In short, a failure.

The five-star Paola Taverna attacked on Twitter: "Someone tell Musumeci that the management of immigration is the responsibility of the State, not him. He should rather think about enforcing his obligations in Sicily, such as the use of masks.

The mayor of Lampedusa, Totò Martello, however, raised the alarm: "Enough hatred and speculation. Lampedusa needs concrete and immediate answers from the national government: it is essential to immediately start transfers to restore safety conditions, especially health conditions, in the reception centre, which continues to experience an inhuman situation of unacceptable overcrowding".

The mayor of Messina, Cateno De Luca, also intervened in the matter: "I can't stand the fact that the president of the Sicilian Region is a bad imitator of Mayor De Luca. - It was time for him to wake up and sign the order to close all the hotspots and migrant reception centres. I started over a month ago.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Government Departments + Authorities (76%); Heads Of State + Government (75%)

**Industry:** Organic Chemicals (68%)

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brexit, final act Johnson threatens exit without deal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-R0W1-JDMV-K05C-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 September 2020 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 12

**Length:** 460 words

**Byline:** Luigi Ippolito

**Highlight:** 'Agreement by 15 October or London leaves the table'. And deletes the clause on Northern Ireland

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

London Boris Johnson's ultimatum to the ***EU***: either an agreement on Brexit is reached within five weeks, or London will abandon the negotiations and go to a no deal, a divorce without agreements that will have serious consequences, starting with the return of duties and customs.

The British Prime Minister launched his message yesterday, in a speech on the eve of the resumption of those talks that have been dragging on for months in search of a comprehensive trade pact: Great Britain left the ***European Union*** on 31 January last, but a transition period lasting until the end of the year was triggered, which was supposed to give space to sign a free trade treaty.

But now Boris says time is running out: if everything is not concluded by 15 October, the date of the next ***European*** summit, then there is no point in going ahead. And for London, he says, it's not all bad: the no deal will be "a good outcome", says the PM, thanks to which Britain will be able to "prosper powerfully".

And Downing Street seems to want to burn its bridges behind it: on Wednesday, a bill will be tabled in Parliament that effectively tears up decisive parts of the withdrawal agreement reached at the end of last year. In particular, the clauses on Northern Ireland, which left the province in the ***European*** regulatory orbit to avoid a return to a hard border with the Dublin Republic to the south, are being called into question. A move that has infuriated Brussels, which is already accusing London of reneging on an international treaty, and which risks causing the negotiations to break down immediately.

But Boris doesn't seem to mind so much. On the contrary, he proclaims that "we will not compromise on the fundamentals of what it means to be an independent country": London in fact claims that the ***Europeans*** have not yet digested the fact that they are dealing with a sovereign state that has no intention of submitting to external impositions. Brussels, on the other hand, retorts that it cannot accept unfair competition on its doorstep.

There are basically two stumbling blocks: fishing rights and state aid. The British no longer want to give ***European*** fishing boats free access to their territorial waters and are demanding a free hand for public subsidies to companies. It is this last point that is crucial: London aims to create technological champions thanks to a policy of state support (as America and China already do) and does not want to suffer barriers imposed by ***Europe***. With these premises, it therefore seems difficult that an agreement will be reached: in the last few days government sources gave the chances of an agreement to no more than 40%, but this is even an optimistic forecast.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Treaties + Agreements (83%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (78%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (62%)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Recovery fund plan: 110% ecobonus until 2024***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-R0W1-JDMV-K06D-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 September 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 26

**Length:** 488 words

**Byline:** Lorenzo Salvia

**Highlight:** Le proposte del Mise: decarbonisation of Ilva, conversion to hydrogen Made in Italy Among the projects of Mise also the use of blockchain to track the Made in Italy

**Body**

ROME Confirmation for at least another three years of the super-ecobonus and super-sismabonus, the 110% tax incentives that in fact make it possible to renovate a house at no cost if there are improvements in energy efficiency or anti-seismic safety. The two measures, introduced by the government with the Relaunch decree, currently expire at the end of 2021 but "could be extended for the period 2022-2024, subject to further extension". The extension could be possible thanks to the Recovery Fund, the ***European*** aid plan that would make ***€30*** billion available for this item alone. For the moment this is only a proposal from the Ministry of Economic Development. The actual list of projects to be financed with the 209 billion ***euro*** budgeted by Brussels will only be presented by the government in January. And before then there are many steps that could change the cards on the table. But the extension of the two bonus is one of the measures that in recent days the ministry led by Stefano Patuanelli has sent to the Ministry of ***European*** Affairs, which coordinates everything.

The project fiche underlines how "the longer period would also give more stability and effectiveness to the measure already in force and encourage new investments by market operators". An estimate of the effects is also hypothesised, "with an intervention rate of about 1% per year of the total area occupied".

In the document's 37 pages, there is also a chapter devoted to the "decarbonisation, productive, social and territorial revival" of Taranto with "the use of hydrogen in the medium to long term" for the former Ilva steelworks. But decarbonisation and hydrogen do not only concern Taranto, given that for a series of other projects there should be a total of ***EUR*** 4.5 billion, according to the ministry's requests. There is also a plan for artificial intelligence in industrial production and beyond, and a project to implement the use of blockchain, the unmodifiable digital ledger, for the traceability of Italian-made products. There is also 350 million ***euro*** to build a single repository for radioactive waste, a project that has been dragging on for years because no municipality wants to hear about it.

There are also a series of incentives for reshoring, the return to Italy of companies that have relocated abroad, and new resources for company liquidity with the creation of a public investment bank. All these proposals currently bear the signature of only one ministry and have a long and tortuous path ahead of them. According to the Bank of Italy, if the entire Recovery Fund were to be used by Italy without inefficiencies, the most favourable scenario would foresee a "cumulative increase in the level of GDP of about 3 percentage points by 2025".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Manufacturing Facilities (94%); Securities + Other Investments (90%); Agriculture Regulation + Policy (82%); Economic Growth (69%); Gross Domestic Product (69%); National Debt (62%)

**Industry:** Marketing + Advertising (63%); Agriculture (61%)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Spread at 136, lowest since February Less constraints EU until 2021***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93HY-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 43

**Length:** 507 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight:** Brussels: spring meeting on the Stability Pact. Fed: yes to new aid plan

**Body**

Clarifications from Brussels for the drafting of the Budget Law to be sent to the Commission in mid-October and which will already have to take into account the main reforms of the Recovery Fund's resilience plans. In a (non-practical) letter sent to Italy and all member states, Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni and ***EU*** Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis provided further explanations on some aspects related to the Recovery Fund and the suspension of the Stability Pact, with the confirmation that it will not be reintroduced in 2021 "in light of the general uncertainty".

The assessment of the budget laws will still take place in November, as usual after the macroeconomic forecasts, but it will focus on the quality of the planned measures and not on the targets to be met given the suspension of the Pact, although the action of monitoring the evolution of the deficit and public debt will continue. The Commission, explains the letter, which stems from the need for greater clarity that emerged during the discussions at the last ***Eurogroup*** in Berlin, "will pay particular attention to the quality of the budgetary measures taken and planned, in order to cushion the impact of the crisis, support recovery and strengthen resilience, taking into account the fiscal sustainability" of the measures established. The assessment will also cover "the possible impact of the guarantees provided by the government". Therefore, the 2021 Budget Law "must take into account as much as possible the implementation of the reforms and investments envisaged" by the Recovery Fund. These are the reforms recommended to each country by the Commission in May and the investments that must be in line with the ***EU*** priorities on green and digital transition.

The ***EU*** countries agree, as also emerged at the last ***Eurogroup***, that "the budgetary policies of the member states should continue to support the recovery throughout 2021" and only "when economic conditions allow it" should they "pursue policies aimed at achieving prudent budgetary positions in the medium term". However, Gentiloni and Dombrovskis point out, "in spring 2021, taking into account the updated macroeconomic forecasts, we will reassess the situation and take stock of the application of the escape clause" of the Stability Pact. In addition, the Commission suggests that Member States regularly review the budgetary guidelines. In the meantime, a positive data comes for Italy in the aftermath of the vote from the spread, which yesterday closed at 136 points, slipping to the lowest since February.

Caution about a "very uncertain, uneven and incomplete" economic recovery, as ECB President Christine Lagarde has called it, is shared by the US. Yesterday Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said he would do everything possible to support the economy for as long as necessary. And US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke of "a targeted aid package".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Policy (82%); ***European*** Union (63%); Economic Conditions (62%)

**Industry:** Budgets (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Cirio proposal: 'A bonus for those who do not dismiss'; Labour***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93PD-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

TURIN Edition

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**Section:** TURIN; Page 11

**Length:** 383 words

**Body**

"Those who don't lay off should be rewarded. Alberto Cirio launched the idea of anti-redundancy incentives. "In the uncertainty no one hires, in the uncertainty no one invests", argued the governor of Piedmont during the States General of Labour held yesterday at the Polytechnic. "You cannot prohibit companies from firing people forever, but you have to find a way to make it convenient not to do so. Therefore, Cirio added, "the institutions must close the electoral page as soon as possible and work concretely on the employment emergency". According to the president of Piedmont, "the government must reward those who do not lay people off". Because those who "undertake to maintain the current level of employment for two to three years" should be guaranteed "an immediate economic advantage that will allow them to make investments and remain on the market". There is no shortage of resources available to support businesses, and therefore work.

And they are contained in the Recovery Plan, the 208 billion ***euros*** that the ***European Union*** will pour, partly in the form of grants (68 billion) and partly in the form of loans, into the coffers of the State. We have to decide how to spend them. And today there is still little clarity. In Cirio's ideal agenda, work is a priority, it is money that "must serve companies not to lay people off". But infrastructure should not be forgotten. "Asti-Cuneo, Terzo Valico, works to accompany the Turin-Lyon. The shopping list to be presented to Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte grew longer when the mayor Chiara Appendino took the floor. "We have been working on the Recovery Fund for a few months now. The Ance asked us to indicate the priorities: there are certainly infrastructures, including Line 2 of the Metro, but also innovation in public administration, digital technology and the environment, i.e. resilience and climate change. Appendino underlined the centrality of three issues: "innovation and welfare at the same time, training with a great cohesion of the entrepreneurial system and universities and new supply chains for young people. The mayor then recalled the projects for the Tne area in Mirafiori where 'the Competence Centre will be built to attract companies and the challenge of artificial intelligence'. ( c. b. )

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Small Business (93%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (92%); Economic Growth (90%); Environment + Natural Resources (83%); Business Forecasts (77%); Communities + Neighborhoods (69%); Labor + Employment (68%); ***European*** Union (65%); Riots (65%); Securities + Other Investments (65%); Economic Conditions (64%); Land Use + Development (61%)

**Industry:** Budgets (64%); Agriculture (63%); Broadband (63%); Construction (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Michel in quarantine, summit EU summit postponed; Brussels***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93GW-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 26

**Length:** 159 words

**Byline:** Fr. Bas.

**Body**

Preventive quarantine. ***European*** Council President Charles Michel had to postpone the extraordinary summit of ***EU*** heads of state and government scheduled for Thursday and Friday. The meeting will be held on 1 and 2 October. The postponement was necessary because one of his security officers, with whom Michel has been in close contact since early last week, tested positive for Covid-19. The president is regularly tested and tested negative two days ago, but in accordance with Belgian rules, he has been in solitary confinement since yesterday. Last week Michel met Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis and Maltese Prime Minister Abela, as well as President Anastasiadis of Cyprus. In July, the first summit in person was held after the lockdown. And this week's was also scheduled to be attended. The focus was on tensions with Turkey and sanctions on Belarus, Brexit, the Recovery Fund.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (93%); Manufacturing Facilities (82%); Executives (80%); Nontariff Barriers (76%); Public Debt (76%); Economic Growth (75%); Embargoes + Sanctions (69%); Fines + Penalties (69%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Territorial + National Borders (69%); Water Quality (67%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (65%); Agriculture Regulation + Policy (63%); Excise Tax (62%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Zingaretti dictates his agenda; Post-voting election scenarios "Security decrees in the first Council of Ministers". And he presses for funds EU funds "Me in the government? I don't claim it". But Renzi also wants him vice-premier***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FK-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 2.3

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** Maria Teresa Meli

**Highlight: The** warning The message about collective decisions against the PM's solo escapes

**Body**

ROME

The night before last he had made his recommendations to parliamentarians and collaborators: "Sobriety, let's not do like the others, the numbers speak for themselves". And soberly, the next afternoon, Nicola Zingaretti appeared in the press room of the Nazarene to dictate the agenda to the majority, the party and the government. Indeed, he proposed to the latter "a new agenda" because "a new phase has opened". And to Giuseppe Conte (who, like the entire executive, does not "have to sit down", but rather move and act "quickly"), the PD leader sends a precise message: "We hope that teamwork will be strengthened" (also for the election of the next president). (also for the election of the next head of state). In other words: no more solo escapes by the Prime Minister, but collective decisions.

The secretary of the Dem party asked the government to "approve the changes to the security decrees in the first useful council of ministers". And then "we need to get to the heart of the Recovery Fund", deciding what to do with the money, which, in his opinion, should also be used for "a large-scale employment plan for young people and women".

On the Recovery Fund, "the collaboration of the oppositions" will also be useful, and Forza Italia has already given signals in this sense, the Dem secretary underlined. Finally, the MES. No "ideological" approach to the issue, and to dribble the opposition of the 5 Star Zingaretti proposes to Roberto Speranza to "present a great plan for health care. In this way it will be clear to everyone that in order to have an efficient public health service it is necessary to "activate the Mes channels". Unless, says Andrea Orlando, who sits next to the secretary, "we prefer private healthcare".

These are the requests to the government: the reshuffle is not on the list. "It is a matter that Conte will evaluate in his autonomy. Nor is there any question of Zingaretti joining the government as deputy premier: "Me in the executive? There is no claim to a post. Even if there are still those in the Democratic Party who are convinced that if the secretary were to join the executive, it would be easier to implement the Dem proposals. And even Renzi is in favour of the hypothesis.

But Zingaretti also has demands to make of the majority because "phase two of the reforms must be opened". So the secretary of the Democratic Party has announced a proposal for "overcoming equal bicameralism", which meets Matteo Renzi's demands. He asked him to give the green light to electoral reform. Then the leader of the Democratic Party called for the reform of parliamentary regulations, which is inevitable with the halving of senators and deputies. He then put forward another proposal: the reform of the local autonomy system. Luigi Di Maio's idea of cutting the salaries of parliamentarians does not seem to have met with much success at the Nazarene: "We can discuss it but it is not a priority. Di Maio has to renew his repertoire because the anti-caste rhetoric is starting to get tiresome," Orlando said.

And then there is the party: 'It needs to be renewed, I won't give up on this'. It will be discussed in the Executive and in the National Assembly to be held after the ballots. Zingaretti is not aiming at a congress, because, he says, "it only becomes a referendum on names", he wants to "open the Democratic Party to society and to a comparison with the country". No longer a party of members only, then.

Zingaretti opened and closed the conference by pointing out that the government alliance took 48.7%, two points more than the centre-right. "He said: "The Democratic Party is the pillar of this coalition. Orlando added: "So it has to carry more weight". After all, this is also the point of the press conference.

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The word

The secretary of the Democratic Party, Nicola Zingaretti, has proposed to the Health Minister Roberto Speranza to develop "a great plan for healthcare". This is how the leader of the Democratic Party thinks he can convince the 5 Star Movement to give the green light to the use of funds from the Mes specifically earmarked for healthcare spending.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Campaigns + Elections (93%); Labor + Employment (88%); Labor Unions (88%); Health Care Policy (87%); Tobacco + Health (82%); Politics (81%); Conferences + Conventions (71%); Discrimination (63%); Gender Equality (63%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (63%)

**Industry:** Budgets (84%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"A political pact with the allies that will provide certainty for the whole legislature"; Democrats***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FV-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 6

**Length:** 962 words

**Byline:** Maria Teresa Meli

**Body**

ROME Goffredo Bettini, you have always advocated an alliance with the 5-Star party, but in Liguria you did not succeed. And perhaps if you had allied with them in Puglia and Campania, changing candidates, you would have lost there too...

"In Liguria the game was compromised for a long time. Sansa fought well. But that's not really the substance of the vote, which was rather a great affirmation of the PD and its candidates in the key regions: Tuscany, Campania and Puglia. It is quite clear that we have also achieved this positive result thanks to a winning strategy that, first and foremost, Zingaretti and the executive group have tenaciously pursued for a year, amid mistrust, derision and insults. I know something of this myself. The truth is that Prime Minister Conte and the government alliance that supports him have saved the country. The Democratic Party is recognised as the pillar of the entire democratic camp. Our ruling class in the territories has been rewarded for the great work it has done and for the credibility of its programmes. The right wing, which until a few months ago seemed unstoppable, is starting to deflate. But I would like to say one more thing: Giani, De Luca and Emiliano won clearly also thanks to a split vote that was possible thanks to a united, non-rejectionist profile of the PD. We were able to ask for and obtain the 'useful' vote because, unlike in the past, we were perceived as welcoming, not boastful or hostile to others. The vote for the PD expressed the so-called "majority vocation" in real processes, in the ideal and political battle; not in an ideological and overbearing way; nor as an occupation of the entire field of alternative to sovereignism, in a sort of bipartisan illusion that died long ago".

The PD won but the 5stelle did badly, can't this lead to fibrillations in the government and among the allies?

"The PD is the first Italian party. Those who wanted it dead can rest in peace. Or claimed that we were doing everything wrong and considered us subordinate to Di Maio. However, I do not rejoice at the difficulties of the 5 Stars or other allies. Certainly the new strength of the Democratic Party will be able to guarantee that qualitative leap that I have repeatedly called for: greater harmony between the parties in government, which is essential for rebuilding Italy after the emergency; the rapid launch of a long-awaited reform process; the use of the Recovery Fund that is not dispersive but concentrated on some innovative strategies that citizens can understand and appreciate: green development, the enhancement of our human capital (starting with young people and women), growth policies to achieve more social justice. And finally, institutional and regulatory changes to complete the process started with the Yes vote. Part of the electorate voted No, including many from the Democratic Party. Woe betide if we take a knee-jerk attitude. Rather, those votes will give us further strength to keep our commitments, starting with the reform of the electoral law.

During the election campaign, Giuseppe Conte did not show up and left Zingaretti alone. How do you judge this attitude?

"The PM has been pushing for a similar alliance to the national one in all territories. His appeal was not taken up. It is natural that this has forced him to be more reserved. Moreover, governing the country is a different level from regional and local elections. Conte played his decisive part by governing well. The victory he achieved would have been unthinkable with a Prime Minister who was disliked by the citizens. However, in the absence of a sufficient united push by the allies, we had to be united for two: for us and for the others.

Do you still think a reshuffle is necessary after this vote?

"The Democratic Party does not want armchairs or more advantageous balances of power. Rather, for some time we have been indicating the need for a political and programmatic strengthening of the coalition around Conte. It is up to the Prime Minister to find ways to achieve this".

You often have contacts with Conte, what would you advise him to do now?

"Using ***European*** resources to change Italy, redressing injustice and poverty; looking at the wonderful possibilities of the South; supporting with the utmost energy the productive forces, workers and healthy businesses and also those many VAT holders who do not evade, guaranteeing a fabric of hard work and social stability in the territories. New policies to combat all forms of income, the real bottleneck of the country's growth in recent years. This is where we need to speed up".

After these election results, do you think Matteo Renzi will return to the PD?

"I respect Renzi, Carlo Calenda and Emma Bonino. Different from each other but all valuable. They would do well, however, to admit that their individual projects have no prospects. Criticising or even bombing a government that has shown it can lead Italy wisely and effectively, so strong and appreciated in the ***European*** context, is inconsistent with those liberal democratic principles they intend to profess. Let them find a way to unite that area, to make it count constructively in the action of the current executive. They are also needed. It is the moment of responsibility, for a political and programmatic pact that gives certainty to Italy throughout the legislature. The right has taken a deadly blow. But if we make a mistake, it can raise its head again in a moment".

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Bettini: give peace to those who wanted our party dead We are not interested in seats or balances of power

The word

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After the results of the regional elections and the referendum, the problem of reshuffling the government team could arise. Officially, the Democratic Party has not asked for a reshuffle, nor does Prime Minister Conte seem to want one. But the hypothesis remains at the centre of the debate between the Democratic Party and the M5S.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"The government is fine the way it is" Conte closes to the reshuffle (and to the Mes); The backstage***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93FP-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 3

**Length:** 607 words

**Byline:** Monica Guerzoni

**Highlight:** Copasir listens to PM on 007 appointments: Parliament should intervene

**Body**

ROME Giuseppe Conte sees the light again after his pre-election "seclusion" at Palazzo Chigi. And he is so happy with the outcome of the vote that, after blocking the reshuffle and joking about his alleged "immovability", he takes a walk in the city centre. A citizen with some denialist sympathies approached him: "But do we have to keep these masks?". And the head of the government held out his hands in prayer: "But do you see the numbers of contagions? Do you know the numbers or do the dead not exist? Let's not talk nonsense".

For Conte it is the day of great relief. The government is more solid and the prospect of making it to 2023 is becoming more concrete. But the Prime Minister, who did not put his face on the Regions, does not want to appear incoherent and bites his tongue: "A fine exercise in democracy, despite the emergency. It's a good result and all the forces supporting the majority have reason to be satisfied. Some more and some less, but Conte cannot say. What he does care about is disproving those who hoped to send him home: "I have never felt in the balance and I don't feel immovable. But if we are not able to implement the Recovery projects, I will be the first to say that the government must go home, with ignominy".

The post-voting topic is the reshuffle, and Conte is not dodging the question that torments him most of all: "I am happy with the team because it is cohesive, the ministers have worked with great commitment. The ministers have worked very hard," he said, adding: "I don't feel the need for a reshuffle at all. The draw at the regional elections has changed the balance in his majority, where the Democratic Party is stronger and the M5S and IV are weaker. But Conte, who also spoke to us yesterday, was convinced that "Zingaretti is not asking for a reshuffle". The rumours of a Lazio president ready to move to the government as deputy prime minister and interior minister come from his internal enemies, is the idea circulating among the ministers closest to the premier. Conte made it clear: "I don't think the PD is talking about a reshuffle, but about relaunching government action. And when it was pointed out that Zingaretti was pressing him on ***European*** funds for health care, he again denied any friction: "The country has to run, so I'm in a hurry too... As you can see, Zingaretti and I are in absolute harmony.

This is not entirely the case, starting with the 37 billion Mes. The Dems are preparing to raise their voices, while Conte is only putting the brakes on: "First we have to draw up a plan for health, after which we will go and see how much it costs. Yes to the Mes and no to the Mes is a prejudicial question on which I do not pronounce myself". The unspoken point is that the Prime Minister believes that a split among the 5 Star party in the Senate is inevitable, with the strong risk of triggering a crisis. This is why the first point on Zingaretti's agenda for "phase two of the reforms" seems destined to be dropped. On the other hand, on Salvini's security decrees, the president is quick to say: "We'll make the changes as soon as possible and there will be a surprise, a much more efficient repatriation plan.

And the Movement? Conte notes that 'our friends in the M5S have something to console themselves with, because they were promoters of the referendum'. And the attempt to rebalance the weights is clear: 'I don't think they were expecting brilliant results at the Regionals...'. Salvini certainly expected them, to whom Conte promises "great opportunities for confrontation" on the Recovery. It seems that the Prime Minister has also made some openings on the appointments of 007s, after the two-hour hearing at the Copasir. The body chaired by the Italian League leader Raffaele Volpi asked Parliament to intervene.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Heads Of State + Government (94%); Economic Crisis (75%); Wages + Salaries (75%); Health Care Policy (61%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Recovery fund not forgetting science; Native Analogue Digital Aged***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-8TR1-F13X-93JC-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 September 2020 Wednesday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 46

**Length:** 391 words

**Byline:** Massimo Sideri

**Body**

A few kilometres from New York you can visit a curious 'national monument': a giant horn-shaped antenna, hence the name, Horn Antenna. The site is linked to the Bell labs, famous for the number of Nobel prizes won by its researchers. In fact, in 1964, two young scientists, Arno Penzias and Robert A. Wilson, were working on their telecommunications-related waves when, thanks to the antenna, they stumbled upon a bizarre phenomenon: a background buzz that no amount of care could suppress.

That annoying buzzing was the echo of the Big Bang, and for that discovery Penzias and Wilson, a few years later, collected their Nobel Prize for having demonstrated what was only a theory: the entire universe is the result of a "nut" that exploded 13 billion years ago. Today, the Bell Labs, although still prestigious, no longer have the freedom to experiment that they once had, but the anecdote is useful to understand how science, and with it progress, proceeds with its own curious sense of humour. Just as a reminder: the geo-localisation technology with which every smartphone works would not be possible today if Albert Einstein had not deciphered the laws of gravitation with the theory of relativity. All this seems obvious and fascinating, at least as boring as talking about funding can be. Yet without the percentages and budgets, we would have to say goodbye to everything else. Today, more than ever, it is clear that countries' economies and jobs grow thanks to investments in science and innovation. We tell ourselves this, but we do not listen. An ISTAT dossier has just revealed that the propensity of companies to invest in research and development is expected to fall, due to Covid-19, by around 5 per cent compared to 2019. The state is expected to partly fill this diet, with a plus 3 per cent. But the sum remains unhappy. Italy invests only 1.3 per cent of GDP: about 23 billion. The ambition to rise to 2 per cent in order to catch up with ***European*** countries (the average is 2.4 per cent, with Germany at 3 per cent) has been promised on several occasions by various governments and recalled by the Amaldi Plan. But when it comes to calculating, oblivion falls on the Horn Antenna. Couldn't we use, at least in part, the Recovery fund? The opportunity is unique.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Growth (94%); Awards + Prizes (93%); Health Care Professionals (83%); National Debt (78%); Gross Domestic Product (76%); Nurses + Nursing (70%); Public Debt (61%)

**Industry:** Telecommunications (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Europe Towards an agreement on internal travel; Highlights Restarting diplomacy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NJ-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 October 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 10

**Length:** 505 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight:** Zones will be classified according to risk of contagion Still to be resolved: testing and duration of quarantine Roadmap Next Tuesday, the General Affairs Council will resolve the final knots

**Body**

More than 6 million cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed in ***Europe*** since the start of the pandemic. Concern is growing among ***EU*** countries about a second wave of infection. For months ***European*** governments have been trying to find a coordinated approach to containment measures, under the impetus of the ***EU*** Commission, but without success: health and borders are the exclusive competence of the Member States, which do not want to give up their sovereignty. However, there is a glimmer of agreement on at least two points: a coloured map of the ***EU*** that classifies the risk rate in the various countries on a regional basis, based on common criteria, and a common ***European*** form to locate travellers (which now varies from country to country). The agreement could arrive next Tuesday at the General Affairs Council.

The dossier is in the hands of Germany, which holds the rotating presidency of the ***EU***. Its compromise proposal for a "Council recommendation on a coordinated approach to restrictions on free movement in response to the Covid-19 pandemic" was discussed yesterday by ***EU*** ambassadors (Coreper) and will return to their table on Friday for the last formal step before the General Affairs Council. Not all states fully agree with the proposal, diplomatic sources close to the dossier explain that a 'qualified majority' in support of the text has been reached. The attempt will be to introduce some changes to meet the governments' requests but not to the detriment of the balance achieved. The aim is to proceed without losing further time. The proposal aims to avoid "unilateral measures" that damage the economy and complicate the lives of ***EU*** citizens, and to limit restrictions to when they are "strictly necessary" and in the least discriminatory way possible, applying them to people arriving from specific areas or regions particularly affected by the virus and not to the entire country of origin. "The debate was constructive," explained an ***EU*** diplomatic source close to the dossier, after the ambassadors' meeting. "Getting the Council's recommendations on coordination on Covid-19 off the ground as quickly as possible," he added, "is a shared goal. We are on the right track.

A number of issues remain to be resolved, such as the harmonisation of the duration of self-isolation (e.g. in Belgium it is one week, in Italy 14 days) and the convergence of testing procedures for travellers coming from areas considered to be at high risk. The map of the risk of transmission of the virus, which will be updated weekly by the ***European*** Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on the basis of data made available by the States, will have four colours (green, orange, red and grey) based on the cumulative incidence of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants at regional level in the previous 14 days, the percentage of positive tests on the tests carried out and the number of tests per 100,000 inhabitants performed in the last week.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Leave a MEP The League loses the primacy of the European ParliamentAnd Ceccardi stays in Strasbourg***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NS-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 October 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 13

**Length:** 154 words

**Body**

The Lega's delegation in the ***European*** Parliament has lost an ***MEP***, Andrea Caroppo, and as a result also the primacy of the first party in the hemicycle, which until now was held on equal terms with the Cdu-Csu of Angela Merkel. Now the League, which achieved good electoral success in the last ***European*** elections by bringing a large delegation to Brussels, has 28 ***MEPs*** and the Germans 29. The now former ***MEP*** has switched to the Non-Members, leaving the Id group. The decision, he explained, is a consequence of the last regional elections in Puglia, where the League contested the candidacy of Melonian Fitto. The decision, he explained, was a consequence of the last regional elections in Puglia, where the League contested the candidacy of Fitto, a member of Meloni's party. Susanna Ceccardi, on the other hand, already candidate for governor in Tuscany, has announced that she will remain in Brussels. © CONFIDENTIAL REPRODUCTION

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Campaigns + Elections (94%); ***European*** Union (69%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Greek neo-Nazis: from Parliament to prison; The sentence***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0P1-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 October 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 18

**Length:** 722 words

**Byline:** Andrea Nicastro

**Highlight:** 68 members of Golden Dawn, the third largest force in the 2014 ***European elections,*** convicted of 'criminal organisation' Tears of Magda, the mother of the rapper killed by the party's 'hero' The collapse of support In the 2019 elections, the party obtained 0.11 per cent and no seats

**Body**

The neo-Nazis of Golden Dawn, 9% in the 2014 ***European*** elections, the third largest party in Greece's cradle of democracy, were criminals. Five years of investigations established one murder, two attempted murders, threats, mistreatment, illegal weapons. The victims were immigrants, blacks, leftists, ***pro-Europeans*** and anyone who did not bow their heads to their watchwords. "People, army, blood, honour, fatherland". They attacked on buses, in markets, at night, in the neighbourhoods they had decided to 'protect', as squads, as criminals. They wanted to "clean up" Greece from the "filth" (of those who did not think like them) and, after a few years on the parliamentary benches of Athens and Brussels, they ended up behind bars. Yesterday, the Court of Appeal convicted 68 members of the party of criminal organisation. Among them were 18 former MPs.

Outside the courtroom, 20,000 people celebrated the turnaround of their democracy. The trial of the neo-Nazis in Athens does not hold a candle to the 1946 Nuremberg trial of Hitler's hierarchs, but if the Weimar Republic or the Kingdom of Savoy had tried the brown and black shirts, perhaps Nuremberg would never have been reached. Greek democracy, from the centre-right prime minister to the centre-left opposition, is proud of the sentence, proud to have activated the antibodies of democracy.

According to the judges, there are different degrees of responsibility. The leader and founder Nikos Michaloliakos, expelled from the army, Shoah denier, racist, xenophobe, was the leader, the ideologist. Translated: the instigator. Six former MPs were part of his dome, another 12 MPs were accomplices, the remaining 50 activists under investigation (including candidates, municipal and provincial councillors) were only supporters. The judges have yet to establish the sentences, but they should range between 5 and 15 years.

The one who risks life imprisonment is the hero of the party, the former labourer and murderer Giorgos Roupakias. He stabbed rapper Pavlo Fyssas in 2013, a left-wing activist whose lyrics recounted Golden Dawn's expansion into the working-class neighbourhoods of Piraeus. His mother, Magda Fyssas, cried at the reading of the sentence. "My Pavlo, you did it". It was this woman, more than the politicians, who prevented the investigation from stalling. She had heard her son rapping his prophetic complaint: "and whoever promises me a knife in the back, I will wait for him, I will not cry, I will not be afraid". The recording of the threatening phone calls received by the boy uncovered the rot.

Come to the court," Magda Fissas demanded, "come all of you, we have to defend Pavlo this time. The police were deployed with at least two thousand officers and fringes of the procession attacked the security cordon. The celebration for the verdict turned into a chaotic stampede. The incident, however, does not change the political significance of yesterday's verdict.

Sowing hatred, exhibiting and encouraging violent behaviour is not a political act, but a criminal one. The rise of the xenophobic, anti-European and intolerant far-right has been fostered by the ***EU-imposed*** austerity plans, the financial crisis and the wave of poverty that swept the country in the past decade. Now it seems to have stopped in Greece and, perhaps, in the rest of ***Europe***.

But you should have seen them six or nine years ago, the Greek neo-Nazis on the streets of Athens. They paraded with torches and balaclavas, in compact ranks, phalanxes of their personal war on non-Greeks. Those parades were parodies of political fantasy films. At the centre of their flag was something (the Rhodes meander) that was not a tribute to classical Greece, but a barely disguised swastika. The aesthetic was bleak: shaved heads, knuckle-draggers, the smell of testosterone. We are the defenders of Greece, they said, against foreigners who steal jobs, blacks who mug old ladies, ***Europe*** that buys politicians. The criminal party had come to have 388,000 votes, 9.4% of the national vote. With 0.11%, it did not win a single seat in the 2019 elections.

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The case

Left-wing rapper Pavlo Fyssas, (above a flag with his face) was stabbed to death in 2013 by Golden Dawn member Giorgos Roupakias (above a street demonstration)

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Human Rights Violations (94%); Prisons (93%); Sentencing (76%); Corrections (74%); Arrests (70%); Human Rights (62%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Let's open up outside politics and I want the liberal revolution"; the matteo salvini interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-VKW1-JDMV-K0NR-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

8 October 2020 Thursday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 13

**Length:** 1035 words

**Byline:** Cesare Zapperi

**Highlight:** The leader: Meloni's role in ***Europe***? We are still talking about the opposition, others are in charge Let's expand to entrepreneurs and professionals The model is Macerata, a non-attached member won In the South, re-proposing known candidates did not give a sign of change

**Body**

MILAN Secretary, the Regional and Municipal elections did not go exactly as you expected.

I am a perfectionist," replied League leader Matteo Salvini, "even one defeat is not good. Losing in Lecco by 31 votes doesn't leave you satisfied, a defeat at home hurts".

You yourself said: "There are data to reflect on". What is the first reflection?

"We have to expand. Now we are looking at the elections that will be held next spring in the main Italian cities, from Milan to Rome, from Naples to Turin. Tomorrow morning (today, ed.) I meet Giorgia Meloni and Antonio Tajani to start thinking about the future.

The starting point?

"The boundaries of our political perimeter must be widened by involving entrepreneurs and professionals. I have a precise model in mind.

Which one?

"Le Marche. Where the centre-right won after 50 years and the League became the first party in the regional council. There we were able to create a mix that was appreciated by the voters".

But for a football lover like yourself, losing at home (Lombardia) is a crime.

"In the first round we won almost everywhere, with some exceptions that I don't underestimate. Of course, in Lecco we lost because we left a thousand voters on the street in the run-off.

Lombardy's Lega Lombarda secretary Grimoldi blamed the bad weather that discouraged people from...

"Let's not joke and let's be self-critical. If we had brought back the voters who had gone to the polling station in the first round, we would have won by a landslide. Obviously, something was missing.

What are you referring to?

"I'm not just looking at Lecco, I'm talking in general. I want a League that is more present in the world outside politics. We need to talk to professionals and businesses. We need to be more present in the provincial capitals.

In Lombardy, the cities are almost all governed by the centre-left. And you?

"This is our limitation. I repeat, we need to involve people more. Some of the doors of the League's sections have remained closed. Look at what happened in Macerata. We won by fielding a non-attached professional. Let's try to be less jealous of those who can help us".

You met with Giorgetti after a number of tirades.

"We had a good talk. He is in charge of foreign affairs. Next week we will meet with our ***MEPs*** because there are important dossiers on the table on which we want to bring our weight to bear".

Is Giorgetti an antagonist of yours or an advisor?

"These are journalistic fabrications. I hold him in high esteem and, like Zaia, I talk to him often.

On ***Europe,*** however, he seems to have different ideas from his own.

"He says, and I think so too, that it is necessary to dialogue with everyone. Then everything has its own time. It is clear that sooner or later we will return to government and by then we will have to have solid ***European*** alliances. We are working on it.

It doesn't look like it.

"Confidentially there are interlocutions at high levels".

The last election lacked the announced breakthrough in the south.

"Mah, five years ago we didn't exist at all. Now we have eight regional councillors in Puglia and Campania.

Not much...

"Re-proposing known candidates did not give a signal of change."

Giorgia Meloni has gained a visible role in ***Europe***. And what does she do?

"We are still talking about opposition. In ***Europe, the*** popular and socialists are in charge. Outside of that, it doesn't make much difference. We agree, however, on the fact that there should be more weight. But be careful, because it's not clear where the EPP will go. If it goes to the left I'm not interested, if it moves to the positions of Orbán I'll start the dialogue.

But the Hungarian leader is not a great friend of Italy.

"Why, is Merkel thinking of her own country or ours?".

Cardinal Ruini also invites you and Meloni to dialogue with ***Europe***.

"I read the interview in the Corriere and I really appreciated it. We talk in Brussels every week without telling people. On the other hand, do you think you can win with 75% in Veneto without a continuous dialogue with the main ***European*** chancelleries? We govern in 14 out of 20 regions, we are not Martians.

He talked about reorganising the League. And the centre-right?

"The same applies: listen and involve. In the game of big cities we want to win everywhere. At tomorrow's meeting (this morning, ed.) I will encourage people to make the kind of progress that we have struggled to make in these regional elections.

Giovanni Toti went to dinner with Mara Carfagna. Did they invite her?

"I'm taking my girlfriend out. I hope they ate well and produced interesting content."

What role can Toti play?

"He has just been re-elected by popular vote to govern Liguria for five years".

So stay in your seat.

"Even Zaia told me that he only thinks about his region. They are both resources".

Can he be a leader?

"Voters will decide, not small dinners".

Has the former President of the Senate Marcello Pera, one of the founders of Forza Italia, become your advisor?

"I have met him several times together with other thinking heads. We need brains to think about the future, as Berlusconi did in his time. Pera's ideas are stimulating.

Which ones in particular?

"I share the idea of the need for a liberal revolution. We need to release energies, to exploit the potential of Italians. And I do not claim to be alone in this effort. I am also working with FI".

They have amended the security decrees.

"It was a mistake, a dangerous step backwards because we are going back to giving hope to 80% of asylum seekers who are not fleeing from any war. We are going back to the business of illegal immigration. But here, in general, it seems to me that the left-wing government is only interested in dismantling the good things we have done".

Isn't this legitimate?

"In times of viruses it would be more appropriate to build, but these are only held together by anti-salvinism".

Since you did not pay much, will you now change your style? Will you moderate your tone?

"Substance counts, not form. There are certainly no election campaigns coming up now and I will have more time to devote to the construction work I mentioned. Every week I will meet with a category.

Less selfies and more meetings?

"Selfies are also requested by industrialists and craftsmen...'.

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**Subject:** Campaigns + Elections (94%); Politics (61%)

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[***Spain and France exceed one million And Berlin closes in on much of Italy; L'EUROPE***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2M3-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

23 October 2020 Friday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 13

**Length:** 450 words

**Byline:** Marta Serafini

**Highlight:** Paris ready to extend curfew to two-thirds of its citizens. Czech Republic has highest rate of infection

**Body**

The coronavirus race continues in ***Europe***. With almost 17,000 new positives, Spain is the first country in Western ***Europe*** to exceed the threshold of one million official cases. "The situation is very worrying in Spain and in ***Europe***. We are in a second wave and in several areas of our country it is not under control", "drastic measures must be taken", said the Spanish Health Minister, Salvador Illa.

France follows: in all, since the start of the epidemic, 1,000,369 cases have been recorded with 34,210 deaths, while yesterday there were 40,000 new positives in just 24 hours. French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the extension of the night curfew, already in force in Paris and Marseille, to 54 of its 101 administrative areas and more than two-thirds of the population. The premier also pointed out that during the "second wave" of coronavirus, infection rates increased by 40 percent in one week and now stand at around 251 per 100,000 inhabitants nationwide. "We already knew that November would be a tough one," he warned.

In the meantime, for the first time in Germany, the number of new cases has exceeded 10,000, with 11,287 infections in a single day. The Robert Koch Institut, the German epidemiological centre, has declared twelve Italian areas to be 'at risk': anyone entering Germany from Latium, Lombardy, Umbria, Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto, Abruzzo, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Sardinia and the province of Bolzano must be quarantined. In addition to Italy, Germany has also included Austria among the countries at risk by issuing a travel warning.

In Belgium, the former head of government and deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the new Belgian government, Sophie Wilmès, was admitted to intensive care in a Brussels hospital. The 45-year-old had tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday.

The situation in the Czech Republic remains particularly serious, where 14,968 new cases were recorded yesterday, and where the infection rate is the highest on the continent, with the number of deaths rising very rapidly. It is no coincidence that the government in Prague yesterday announced the closure of most shops and other restrictions to avoid social contact, measures which are effectively taking the country towards a new lockdown.

Russia closes the dramatic picture, where another 15,971 have been registered in the last 24 hours. Doctors in Siberia have confirmed that the bodies of more than 20 victims of Covid-19 in the city of Barnaul are piled up in the basement of a hospital because there are not enough doctors for autopsies.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Viruses (94%); Diseases + Disorders (92%); Epidemics (92%); Influenza (63%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Poland, illegal abortion even in the most serious cases: the ultra-Catholic turnaround***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2MH-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 23

**Length:** 487 words

**Byline:** Elisabetta Rosaspina

**Highlight:** Prohibited if foetus is malformed. Tusk: Political scoundrel

**Body**

Abortion in Poland has become de facto illegal. The ultra-Catholic and nationalist majority party, the PiS (Law and Justice), has succeeded in obtaining from the High Court the ruling it had long been advocating: terminating a pregnancy "only" because the foetus presents irreversible malformations is contrary to the Constitution. Because it would be a form of discrimination or, worse, eugenics. In other words, selection of the species.

The decision, which outlaws 97% of the cases in which abortion was hitherto permitted in Poland, thus limits the possibility of resorting to the termination of pregnancy to the rarest eventualities: when continuing it would endanger the life or health of the mother, or if conception is the result of rape or incest. In fact, according to official data from the Polish Ministry of Health, in 2019 out of 1,110 therapeutic abortions, 1,074 were motivated by serious abnormalities that would afflict the unborn child.

Of the 13 members of the Constitutional Court, which has been chaired for the past four years by a woman, Julia Przylebska, only two opposed the new, clearly conservative turn in abortion legislation, already one of the most restrictive in ***Europe***. One of the two dissenters, Judge Leon Kieres, said he was aware of the dramatic consequences for women forced to give birth to children who are condemned to live with severe disabilities or even die within a short time.

But political pressure finally prevailed and the court granted the petition of 119 right-wing MPs. Back in April, in the midst of lockdow n, parliament had discussed the drastic curtailment of the right to abortion and also a ban on sex education for under-18s, as called for by anti-LGBT movements. However, the matter was suspended for consideration by sub-committees.

As in the past, women's and gay rights associations could not be mobilised to avoid gatherings, and yesterday, two small groups of opposing views faced each other in front of the High Court building. On the other hand, reactions abounded online and in the press. President Andrzej Duda was satisfied, while Donald Tusk, former Polish prime minister and president of the ***European*** People's Party, denounced the suspicious timing: "The decision of this pseudo-court in the middle of the pandemic is worse than cynicism, it is a political scoundrel". Dunja Mijatovic, Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of ***Europe,*** warns that the crackdown will result in a frightening increase in the use of clandestine laboratories or foreign clinics.

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The cases of abortion that the new ruling of the Polish High Court prohibits, compared to what was allowed until now

Therapeutic abortions performed in 2019 in Poland (out of 375,000 births): almost all were motivated by 'serious abnormalities' of the foetus

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**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Miscarriages (94%); Abortion (93%); Pregnancy + Childbirth (78%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

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[***A PREMIER STILL UNDER THE LOGIC OF PHASE 1; The Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-D9S1-JDMV-K2M9-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 17

**Length:** 460 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Highlight:** Majority relations Both the Five Star Movement and the Democrats are contesting the head of government's hesitations, while tensions are growing within the party.

**Body**

Giuseppe Conte is probably right when he claims not to feel in danger. Yet there is a growing feeling that the prime minister and his staff are living in a self-referential bubble. In this phase of recrudescence of the Covid-19, they seem to be responding to reflections of the past: ghostly press conferences in the courtyard of Palazzo Chigi; unofficial but unconvincing openness to the opposition, which accuses him of "making fun of the country"; and a tendency to offload difficulties and delays onto others. This behaviour suggests a moment of low political lucidity.

Rather than vision, what emerges is cunning. And perhaps the belief that Conte's decline in popularity in the polls is a transitory effect: a downturn that can be recovered with new closure decrees, with public opinion forced to rally around the government. But in this approach there is an echo of the past. The executive seems not to see, or at least to underestimate, the discontent that is overflowing in the majority, and which reflects the nervousness evident in growing sectors of the country. Conte's press conference a few days ago was considered an autogoal.

It is not just a question of the hesitations on the Mes ***European*** loan, motivated by the fear of finding the Cinque Stelle torn apart: a postponement that clashes with the urgency of strengthening the hospital system, while the money from the Recovery Fund is receding in time. The real issue is the relationship with allies who tend not to trust the status quo, which is an omen of tensions at every level. To Nicola Zingaretti, secretary of the Democratic Party, who was worried about the Prime Minister's "dragging his feet", Conte replied that he was "in full agreement".

But he was clearly not convinced, if yesterday the president of the PD deputies, Graziano Delrio, pointed to a second phase that could lead to "distrust in the institutions, to a reduced sense of trust and protection". And he lined up what he considered to be the government's weak points: from transport, to tracking, to the timing of the tests. He added that Conte "should not forget the fragility, anguish, impatience and anger that are mounting in the country".

Add to this an explosive situation among the Grillini and the background may soon be less obvious and stable than we think. The question of a possible change of ministers has resurfaced in the most embarrassing way, with the owner of the Rousseau platform, Davide Casaleggio, according to whom an M5S minister has offered him a post in the past government: it is not clear in what capacity. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio was asked if he knew anything about it. He replied: "Let's think about the infections that have reached sixteen thousand...".

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**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Minority Groups (94%); Conferences + Conventions (83%); ***European*** Union (78%); National Debt (77%); Economic Growth (71%); Public Debt (67%); Immigration (64%); Globalization (63%); Hunger In Society (62%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Resources, states and rules Parliament's thrust EU for the Recovery Fund; Brussels***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617K-4M91-JDMV-K2S8-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

7 November 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 43

**Length:** 522 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Body**

Negotiations on the 2021-2027 ***EU*** budget linked to the Recovery Fund, which pits member states and the ***European*** Parliament against each other, could be at a turning point. A political agreement could arrive next Monday night or Tuesday, said an ***MEP*** from the negotiating team. A ***European*** diplomatic source was more cautious: by the end of the week.

If all agreements are closed by the end of November, the Recovery Fund money could arrive in late spring or early summer, as ***EU*** Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni has explained on several occasions. No institution has an interest in being singled out as responsible for the delay in disbursing Next Generation ***EU*** funds, not the German presidency led by Angela Merkel nor the ***EU*** Parliament led by David Sassoli. The second wave of Covid-19 has led to new lockdowns in ***Europe***, the recovery will be slower than expected, the Commission explained in its autumn economic forecast. Last Thursday a first step forward was taken with the important agreement on the link between respect for the rule of law and the disbursement of ***EU*** funds. This is a politically significant achievement for the ***EU*** Parliament, which has achieved more than what was in the initial proposal and which has displeased Hungary and Poland, which have threatened to veto the budget (although for many observers they have no interest in blocking it).

There are now three outstanding issues: the overall agreement on the 2021-2027 ***EU*** budget, the regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the ratifications of the new own resources agreement by all national and some regional parliaments, totalling 41 parliaments. Once these obstacles have been overcome, the Recovery Fund can become operational. Negotiators from the ***EU*** Parliament and the German presidency, representing the ***EU Member*** States, will meet on Monday. It will be an all-out negotiation, according to a ***European*** diplomatic source, who stressed that too much time has already been lost. If there will be a political agreement on the budget (the Parliament asked for more funds for flagship programmes such as Erasmus, research and neighbourhood policy and asylum), the negotiations that must begin on the regulation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the main instrument of the Next Generation ***EU*** that gives grants and loans to countries against a commitment to investments and reforms contained in national recovery plans, will also receive a boost.

On Monday, the Econ and Budget committees will vote on the ***EU*** Parliament's text in the negotiations with the States. The main requests are the advance of 20% and not 10%, as in the German proposal, of the Recovery Fund (for Italy it would mean going from 20 to 40 billion); 40% of the expenditure to be allocated to green transition (and not 37%); a greater role of the ***EU*** Parliament in monitoring national plans; the distribution of resources until 2024 (and not 2023).

Next week will therefore be crucial. Ratifications by national parliaments will only start after governments have closed all agreements.

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**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (82%); Treaties + Agreements (69%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (65%); Chemistry (63%)

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[***the (weak) challenge to this europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4FY-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

22 November 2020 Sunday

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.33

**Length:** 958 words

**Byline:** Mario Monti

**Body**

***European*** decisions of great importance and particularly awaited in Italy, such as the huge Recovery Fund funds, risk being skipped or delayed.

of months for a dispute that in our

country may seem abstract. Three member states - Orbán's Hungary, Morawiecki and Kaczynski's Poland and now Jansa's Slovenia - oppose the conditionality wanted by the other 24 member states and especially by the ***European*** Parliament:

a State will not be able to receive funds

attributed to it if it violates the rules of the

rule of law, such as independence

of the judiciary or freedom of the press,

for example, when they investigate or protest against corrupt politicians or parties.

We should not think that this is overzealousness on the part of Brussels, nor should we blame the peoples of these countries. They are peoples who suffered greatly under Soviet domination. Having freed themselves from that yoke, they insisted on joining the ***EU*** and, after radical changes to their economic structures and the adoption of democratic constitutional systems, were accepted in 2004. In a Community that is not only an economic Community, but first and foremost a Community of values and rights, we cannot allow democracy to be abandoned in some Member States, or ***European*** taxpayers' money to be used not to promote economic and social development, but to enrich the corrupt and corrupted to the detriment of citizens.

(N.B. for Italy. We should not be surprised if one day the ***EU***, before disbursing its funds, would want to verify well, in each country, whether the State and the government not only observe the rule of law, but are willing and able to make citizens and businesses observe it. On the contrary, I would recommend that a detailed, "armed" and credible plan against corruption and tax evasion should constitute the first and substantial chapter of the "Italian Plan for Recovery and Resilience" to be submitted to the ***EU.*** This was also with the aim of 'surprising' the EU officials in a favourable way and to induce them to a 'passionate' reading of the subsequent chapters).

Returning to Budapest and Warsaw, it should be stressed that Hungary and Poland also urgently need those ***European*** funds, which can only be released if their governments stop opposing conditionality to the rule of law. Yes, but it is their citizens and businesses that desperately need them. For those governments, it is evidently more important not to jeopardise their autocratic system of power.

I trust that a solution will be found, but the ***EU*** cannot give in on such a fundamental principle. Rather, it would seem reasonable (by increasing rather than reducing the ***EU***'s adherence to the rule of law) to provide that a Member State which, on a proposal from the Commission, is sanctioned by the Council for violations of the rule of law and therefore has its payments blocked, may take the matter to the ***EU*** Court of Justice.

The ***EU is*** now a large, complex, imperfect entity, but the creator and custodian of values towards which perhaps the United States itself will revert, after Donald Trump's losing attempt to overthrow it. It is the place of freedom, it must not be a prison. It must be possible to enter the ***EU,*** under certain conditions, as 22 countries have done, joining the six founders. It must be possible to leave the ***EU***, as a country has democratically decided to do. But as long as you are in this building, you are certainly free to criticise every aspect of it harshly, which may help the tenants to improve the building or some of its rules; but not to violate its fundamental rules.

And the ***European*** political families should also live up to the historical construction they have created. I cannot fail to observe that the ***European*** People's Party - the political family that from Adenauer and De Gasperi to Kohl and Merkel has perhaps contributed more than any other to the realisation of the ***European*** project - by cultivating Viktor Orbán within its ranks with rare admonitions and many blandishments, has once again managed to be the leading group in the ***European*** Parliament, but has not managed to have the slightest influence on him in the sense of the values of the EPP of the ***EU***.

Finally, a perspective consideration. In 2016 the United Kingdom decided to leave the ***EU***; in the United States a President hostile to ***European*** integration was elected for the first time, with ambiguous relations with the Russian President but clearly aligned with him on this hostility; supporter and perhaps financier of sovereignist movements, themselves hostile to the ***EU***, in some ***European*** countries. In one large member state, Italy, in 2018 two parties then both sovereignist and then both hostile to the ***EU*** (M5S and Lega), won elections and went into government. At least one of those two parties (Lega), and for a year the Italian government itself, viewed the populist governments of Hungary and Poland favourably.

Today, Kaczynski's Poland and Orbán's Hungary find themselves perhaps a little disoriented. Trump has not been re-elected, Biden is a supporter of ***European*** integration, the ***EU*** has been strengthened, the two Italian parties most friendly to Orbán and Kaczynski are both in opposition (Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, the latter, however, less viscerally opposed to the ***EU*** and more selective in its criticism); Putin's Russia seems to be approaching a delicate phase of succession.

In short, there are no geopolitical reasons that should induce the ***EU*** to bow its head to the autocratic rulers of Budapest and Warsaw at a time when they are challenging, moreover from positions of weakness, the moral and legal principles on which our and, we would like, their ***Europe*** rests.

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[***"So the Italian proposal for European funds funds In Brussels in early 2021"; First floor The second wave vincenzo amendola***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GG-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 11

**Length:** 960 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight: *EU*** affairs minister speaks: there must be no enforcement problems this time around

**Body**

When will you present the Italian Recovery Plan in Brussels?

"At the beginning of 2021, as already indicated. So just after the publication of the ***European*** regulation, provided that there are no slippages in the timetable due to the veto of Poland and Hungary on the budget - replied the Minister for ***European*** Affairs Enzo Amendola - . In any case, an update on the plan will be presented at the end of the month: it stems from Parliament's October vote and is based on a continuous dialogue with the Commission's task force. So there is no delay, let's stop giving unnecessary alarms in a somewhat hysterical way. For days now, some have been using the Recovery as a Trojan horse to attack the government. Legitimate, but for us it is only important to follow the timetable decided in Brussels and to work hard with Parliament and with the representative actors of Italian society.

Who is it that wants to hit the government with the Recovery Plan argument?

"There is always someone in Italy who thinks they will benefit from instability. But certainly not the majority of Italians, least of all in a dramatic phase like this one'.

Abstruse metrics, algorithmic calculations and difficult details: is it true that the requirements set out by Brussels for how the Recovery Plan should be written are complicated?

"It is true that a plan of this size presents difficulties, all the more so in an uncertain economic and social situation and with the ongoing pandemic. But the Commission has indicated parameters consistent with the Union's priorities: green, digital and social cohesion. The details are important in the definition of individual projects and with the Ministry of the Economy we are working to align Recovery, ***European*** funds of the 2021-27 budget and the national budget law, with one eye on growth and the other on debt sustainability. Now, however, we urgently need to accelerate public and private investment".

Is there at least one project you can anticipate?

"Industry 4.0 much strengthened. Central for companies to equip themselves with technology. And accompanied by a skills fund for training workers."

Is the bureaucratic complication a result of widespread mistrust in ***Europe*** of our ability to use funds? Marco Buti, a senior official in Brussels, has published detailed analyses on this.

"I would not speak of complications or mistrust. The rules apply to everyone and it is in everyone's interest to spend resources in the same direction. This aspect is often overlooked, but it's central: we're talking about a joint effort, not only because a joint debt has been incurred, but because the resources will be invested by all the countries in a coherent manner. We are all pushing in the same direction. The fund fed by ***European*** bonds is a novelty even for the Brussels offices, which have had to organise a new machine for the purpose. And it is a challenge for our administration, which for years has been accustomed to managing spending cuts and less to planning investments".

The examples of projects made by Brussels presuppose reforms affecting many interests. How do you do the Recovery Plan in secrecy?

"No secrecy. The guidelines and the use of funds have been voted in parliament. For example, some of the required reforms are, black on white, in the Commission's recommendations to Italy 2019-20. In first place are justice and public administration."

Is it a form of conditionality?

"They don't look like conditionalities to me. They look like urgent reforms to me.

But to what does the choice of total confidentiality of contents owe?

"The need to preserve information that sometimes concerns sensitive sectors of the country and its companies. Before making public the results of the work of these months, a new passage through the Interministerial Committee on ***European*** Affairs and an update from Parliament are required. Then, before the formal handover to Brussels, there will be room to discuss and modify the plan. Listening to everyone. But on the basis of a clear and well-defined strategy, not of more or less unfounded leaks".

Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni called for a special governance mechanism: executive control room at Palazzo Chigi?

"The governance of these resources will have an extraordinary mechanism for implementation and execution of expenditure. Premier Giuseppe Conte has announced this and we are working to present to Parliament the rules that will define the political and technical guidance of the plan. This is a solution that has never been tried before, but which is necessary in order to deploy the resources in a few years without the bureaucratic obstacles or delays of the past".

Any more details?

"The decisive one: the execution problems, which are frequent in our country, must not be there this time".

How worried are you about the Hungarian and Polish veto on the budget?

"If anyone thought we were giving in on values because we were under pressure from the crisis, they were wrong. You cannot build the new ***Europe*** without defending respect for the Treaties. We are all united by the agreement signed with the ***European*** Parliament and I hope that Hungary and Poland will abandon the logic of the veto".

But can this delay do any damage?

"Definitely yes, to the common market and to the economies of each country. Starting with Hungary and Poland.

Are you concerned about the passage of ratification in the parliaments of Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland?

"The ratifications will take many weeks, of course. But we are making common debts, so they will also have the value of a solemn political commitment and will reinforce the sense of the new ***Europe*** we are all working on".

When will the first funds arrive?

"We are following the notes from Brussels to the letter. We hope that the milestones will be met and that the first funds will arrive in late spring.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (82%); Economic Policy (75%); ***European*** Union (69%); National Debt (69%); Public Debt (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"The centre-right only wins if we are there too"; the former Prime Minister's letter***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GN-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

22 November 2020 Sunday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 13

**Length:** 827 words

**Byline:** Silvio Berlusconi

**Body**

Dear Director,

as the Courier has

extensively explained

in recent days, Forza Italia has decided to respond to the

positively to the appeal

of the Head of State to the

institutional collaboration. It's a natural choice for us, even a foregone conclusion, like

it goes without saying that it is not

of political support for a

government that we do not approve of and to a majority whose values and programmes are incompatible with ours.

But it is precisely our liberal, Christian, ***pro-European*** and pro-guarantee values that give us the duty of responsibility towards the Italians, and therefore the willingness to lend a hand, from the opposition, to get Italy out of the emergency in which we find ourselves.

It is even superfluous to add that this does not call into question our belonging to the centre-right, which is not only our home, a home that we have founded and made grow even at the cost of great sacrifices, but which without us could never win, let alone govern. It is unthinkable, in a great ***European*** country, for a centre-right government not to have a strong liberal character.

Instead, it is a question of being aware of the fact that Italy is in the midst of a dramatic crisis, a health and economic crisis without equal at least since the post-war period. It is an emergency situation that concerns the whole world, but in Italy it is grafted onto a series of historical problems, structural weaknesses and inequalities, and unresolved contradictions.

To put it simply, the situation is as follows: those who are already guaranteed - employees, civil servants - continue to be guaranteed in some way, at least for the moment, in this crisis. Those who were not guaranteed before, the self-employed, tradesmen, craftsmen, professionals, small and very small entrepreneurs, VAT numbers, contract workers, now risk being left to their own devices. The anger, pain, and despair that we see in the eyes of many - who see their life's work, the sacrifices they have made, and the hope of a future for themselves and their children thwarted - are feelings that I not only share, but also call for concrete and urgent responses.

I don't want to create any misunderstanding: I don't think that employees are privileged. The protections they enjoy are sacrosanct, the result of decades of historical development, struggles and sacrifices that deserve absolute respect. The vast majority of them work hard and seriously, in the public and private sectors. As an entrepreneur, I have had thousands of employees and I am well aware of the extraordinary value they represent for a company.

For this very reason, however, there cannot be two Italies, one that saves itself, the other - that of self-employment - which must fend for itself, or else be left to sink. Also because one without the other cannot hold up in the long run. What we are asking of the government and the majority is to correct this inequality, guaranteeing self-employed workers, professionals, tradesmen, artisans and VAT numbers all the protection they need, not just once, but in a structural manner. This is one of the conditions for voting together on the next budget 'deviations'.

This is achieved in various ways, first and foremost through the fiscal white semester: the suspension of all payments to the state for these categories until at least 31 March 2021. But of course this is not enough for those who have lost all or most of their jobs.

Our proposal is to grant compensation, equal to a large proportion of the income declared in the previous year, for months of forced inactivity or serious reduction in activity. This is similar to the protection rightly granted to employees who lose their jobs or are laid off.

There is more. About 2 million self-employed professionals registered with private social security funds and with the Inps separate management scheme were the only VAT numbers excluded from the non-refundable contribution of May and, therefore, also from its reissues in the recent 'restorative decrees'.

For them, a significant compensation, appropriate to the turnover lost, must be guaranteed by the end of this year.

How is this to be financed? Unfortunately, of course, with debt. Unfortunately, because we are putting it on future generations. But it is a "good" debt, not only for reasons of fairness, but above all because if we do not come out of this dramatic phase together, there may be no future for anyone.

To achieve all this, we are ready to take on the responsibility of working, for the good of the country, with a government that is far removed from us. I would like the entire opposition to want to do this, without confusion of roles with the majority.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Public Debt (88%)

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[***"The centre-right only wins if we are there too"; the former Prime Minister's letter***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4FV-00000-00&context=)

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22 November 2020 Sunday

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.13

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**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Public Debt (88%)

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Salvini, phone call with Berlusconi And proposes to federate the centre-right; First floor The second wave the choices***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BT-PNR1-JDMV-K4GK-00000-00&context=)

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22 November 2020 Sunday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 12.13

**Length:** 635 words

**Byline:** Paola Di Caro

**Highlight:** Cordial confrontation between the two leaders after the tension over Mediaset But the Lega Nord leader's proposal is cautiously welcomed by the allies

**Body**

ROME The work of the bridge-builders has borne fruit and after the rapprochement between the League and Forza Italia - with the former refusing to cite the law saving Mediaset in the preliminary ruling on constitutionality presented to the Covid decree and the latter setting aside the request for a double speaker on the Financial Bill - there has also been a rapprochement between Matteo Salvini and Silvio Berlusconi.

The two leaders - after a quick contact on Friday evening - spoke at greater length on the phone yesterday morning. In an atmosphere that is defined as 'very cordial', both reiterated how the unity of the centre-right is 'not under discussion' and assured that the coalition will have a 'common position on economic measures, including the budget deviation'. In other words, the coalition will vote united on the budget variance. How, will depend on the attitude of the government.

Not that the clash has not left a trace. To Berlusconi, who was still hurt by Salvini's disrespect in accepting into the League three people who had left the FI (Ravetto, Zanella and Carrara), the Italian leader explained that "they had already been leaving for a long time, and after all I kept them in the centre-right...", he assured that there would be no other arrivals (even though at least two senators were close to joining the League) and complained in turn about the very critical attitude of some of the Italian nationality towards him, starting with Renato Brunetta.

In public, however, Salvini did not go into details: "Beyond the quarrels that you read about in the newspapers and that do not interest Italians, we talked about taxes and work. We have agreed on a common battle on a few objectives alongside producers and Italians who are in more difficulty than others. The amendments will be made together," he explained to "L'Ospite" on Sky Tg24. And he launched a proposal, after having anticipated it to Berlusconi: "A federation of the centre-right, starting with the parliamentary groups of the coalition. Working together, uniting hearts, to bring concrete solutions to the government", for today and "looking to 2030", hoping that "Di Maio and Zingaretti will want to listen".

In short, Salvini, with the idea of "maxi-groups open to all" is trying to "give an extraordinary signal of unity", as explained by the League, and is trying to regain the leadership of a coalition that sees the three parties each seeking their own autonomous space. With FI assigned the role of a force for dialogue with the government, behind which - if they want - the allies can queue up. Even Salvini, who in turn specifies that, in ***Europe,*** "we will remain in our parliamentary group in Strasbourg", that of Le Pen.

This is also why it is too early to talk about federation, experienced by a part of FI as 'a hostile takeover'. Antonio Tajani is cautious: "We will examine it and evaluate". And if for FI Giorgio Mulè seems more possibilistic - "The federation is the natural evolution of a centre-right founded by Silvio Berlusconi, who not by chance has always defined himself as the federator of the coalition..." -, FdI takes the view that the federation is the natural evolution of a centre-right founded by Silvio Berlusconi. FdI is taking its time: "It's difficult to judge what Salvini means on the basis of a statement. But if he intends a greater sharing of choices, we were the first to ask for it among the parliamentary groups," explains Francesco Lollobrigida, the group leader at the Chamber of Deputies.

In the immediate future, however, there is more to come: the votes in Parliament and the agreement still to be found on the Administrative elections, for which a summit will be needed, which has not yet been scheduled.

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1

Three deputies

leave FI

On 19 November, MPs Laura Ravetto, Federica Zanella and Maurizio Carrara left Forza Italia to join the League.

2

Dialogue and the League idea

Berlusconi's opening to the government infuriates Salvini. After a phone call, the Italian leader launched the 'federation of the centre-right'.

3

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Tobacco + Health (94%); Politics (80%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (77%); Riots (75%); Immigration (71%)

**Industry:** Budgets (70%)

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Yes ofEurope to Pfizer's vaccine: 'Valid even with mutated Covid'; Highlights Second wave the new emergency***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9049-00000-00&context=)

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22 December 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8.9

**Length:** 824 words

**Byline:** Stefano Montefiori

**Highlight:** Ema verdict. Conte: wonderful news, immunization from 27th Von der Leyen: important chapter in success story

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS A few hours after the European Medicines Agency (EMA) gave the go-ahead, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced at 6.30 p.m. yesterday that Brussels had authorised the use of the vaccine developed by the US company Pfizer and the German laboratory BioNtech. "Today we are adding an important chapter to a ***European*** success story. We have approved the first safe and effective vaccine against Covid-19. More vaccines will be coming soon. Doses of the one approved today will be available to all ***EU*** countries at the same time, under the same conditions. This is a good way to end a difficult year and to start turning the page on this pandemic," von der Leyen said. "Wonderful news - wrote Council President Giuseppe Conte on Twitter -. We had hoped for the arrival of the vaccines by the end of the year. On 27 December we will start.

The ***EU*** has reserved 200 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine (to be delivered in total by September 2021) with an option to purchase a further 100 million. The first doses will be administered in all ***EU*** countries starting on Sunday. The 450 million ***Europeans*** will receive this and then other vaccines starting with at-risk groups: first nursing home residents, health care staff and the elderly, and then on to the whole population. "Today is a very exciting day for us at BioNtech," said co-founder and CEO Ugur Sahin.

The Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine is already being administered in Britain - "500,000 people have already been vaccinated", Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced yesterday -, the United States, Israel, Switzerland and other countries. The ***European*** authorities have defended themselves against accusations of delays by saying that they needed to be rigorous and not give in to haste, to reassure citizens that any side effects will be negligible and in any case less than the benefits.

The ***European*** Medicines Agency will then give its opinion on the vaccine made by the American company Moderna on 6 January, and on that of the British company AstraZeneca on 12 January. Stella Kyriakides, the ***European*** Commissioner for Health, was keen to point out yesterday that the vaccine is not a short-term miracle solution because the available doses will initially be limited: "This is why we will have to continue to protect ourselves and respect the recommendations of governments.

As for fears about the new variant of the virus and the possibility that it will render the vaccine ineffective, "we are not very worried at the moment," said Marco Cavaleri, director of Ema's vaccine strategy. "I think the virus has to change a lot before we get into a situation like this," he added. Opinion confirmed by Ema director Emer Cooke: "For the moment, there is no evidence that the vaccine does not work with the new variant of the virus." The ***EU*** ordered the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine (which has to be administered twice) at a price of ***€15***.5 per dose, which is lower than the price obtained by the US, i.e. ***€19***.5 for 100 million doses.

However, the controversy does not spare the work of the Union, criticised in an article in the German weekly Der Spiegel, which accuses France in particular of having put pressure on its ***European*** partners to reserve doses of the vaccine developed by the French company Sanofi, which has proved ineffective for the moment and has been postponed until the end of 2021. "It is false to say that to protect a French laboratory we would have asked to buy fewer doses than a German laboratory. You shouldn't lie about these things. The question of how many citizens will want to be vaccinated remains open. While some are sceptical, Interpol chief Jürgen Stock, of Germany, thinks that the initial relative scarcity will lead to "robberies in warehouses and attacks on vaccine transports", with a "dramatic increase in crime".

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How it works

The 'genetic instructions' to defend yourself

The vaccine from the US company Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech provides the human body with 'genetic instructions' that enable it to recognise and fight the Sars-CoV-2 coronavirus. The mechanism of the shield product is mentioned by the Ema

"'Comirnaty', the name of the Covid shield

"Comirnaty" prepares the body to defend itself. It contains a molecule called messenger Rna (mRna), which contains the instructions for producing the Spike (S) protein, the one present on the surface of the virus.

and which it needs to infect

The key role of protein S

When a person receives the vaccine, some of his or her cells will read the mRNA instructions and produce protein S. And if the vaccinated person comes into contact with Sars-CoV-2, his or her immune system will protect the body.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Diseases + Disorders (94%); Viruses (89%); Influenza (84%); Chronic Diseases (61%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Mayors in the field: cities to receive part of European funds funds to citiesForum on Corriere Tv with Sala, Nardella and the first citizen of Warsaw Trzaskowski***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-904M-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

22 December 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 535 words

**Byline:** Alessandra Muglia

**Body**

MILAN "Why doesn't Ursula von der Leyen immediately convene a meeting of ***European*** mayors, as Joe Biden did in the United States? The mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella, chose the Corriere Tv forum "***Europe*** of cities beyond Covid" to launch this appeal. And he does so as president of ***Eurocities***, the largest network of medium-large urban centres on the continent, "the most affected by the crisis".

Thinking about what comes next and throwing one's heart over the hurdle is not easy in the midst of the new emergency, a hard effort in these hours of anxiety. "The Corriere is in the front line in trying to imagine a different world, which is why we took up the idea of this forum proposed by Nardella," said deputy editor Venanzio Postiglione, with Maria Serena Natale moderating the debate, which was also attended by mayors Rafal Trzaskowski from Warsaw and Giuseppe Sala from Milan. All agreed in thinking of cities as spaces for relations where a sustainable and inclusive future can be planned. A future that the flood of resources arriving from Brussels could bring closer. "We have asked ***Europe*** to ensure that 10% of the Recovery Fund goes directly to metropolitan cities," relaunched Sala, who has already signed a letter to the ***EU*** leaders together with colleagues from major ***European*** cities. He now explains that the first reason for this is a logistical-operational issue: "Often our countries do not have the structures to manage such important funds. Italy invests 20-30 billion a year and think of the difficulties of designing tenders and managing them to spend that money. When 200 billion arrives, how will they do it?". Secondly, for reasons of content: "We mayors are on the ground, we know people's needs, we have a pragmatic outlook," assures Sala. Buoyed by the fact that 80 per cent of energy is consumed in urban centres, and that cities are responsible for 80 per cent of emissions, Nardella added a third reason: "The ambitious goals that the ***European*** Commission has set itself, such as carbon neutrality by 2050, can only be achieved if mayors are fully involved in the construction of strategies and have a direct funding channel to carry out these works". It is no coincidence that, as the mayor of Florence recalled, "in the first month Biden did two fundamental things: he and his deputy Kamala Harris met all the major American mayors and appointed Pete Buttigieg as transport minister".

On the path to be taken to tackle the economic crisis and the green and digital transition at the same time, mayors claim a role as "designers of change". Moreover, there is a growing awareness of their political weight: from the four eastern ***European leaders*** in the Visegrád sovereignist axis to the revenge of progressives in the last French elections. "From London to Budapest, the more the states close, the more the cities must open up," they agree. Trzaskowski himself recalled that in Poland he was not alone in leading the battle against the government's veto of the ***EU*** budget: "As many as 250 Polish cities signed a document in favour of the ***European Union***".

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Communities + Neighborhoods (94%)

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[***Half the world isolates Britain Virus variant scares stock exchanges; Top story Second wave the new emergency***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9041-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 2.3

**Length:** 486 words

**Byline:** Monica Ricci Sargentini

**Highlight: *EU*** tries to find a common line on flight ban 'Circulating in ***Europe*** since November'. WHO: not out of control

**Body**

A common line. This is what the ***European Union*** is looking for when it comes to blocking flights to and from Great Britain. Up to now, there has been a scattered reaction by member states to the threat posed by the new variant of the coronavirus that first appeared in England at the end of September, and then spread more and more, so much so that in November its presence was also detected in Denmark and Australia. All EU countries, with very few exceptions, decided to suspend links with Great Britain as a precautionary measure, but in different ways. Germany, for example, has decreed a stop until 31 December but has exempted cargo flights. France, on the other hand, has prevented 'all movements of people, including those related to the transport of goods, by road, air, sea and rail'. The duration also varies: 48 hours for Belgium, France, Denmark and Ireland; ten days for Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Estonia and Latvia; until 6 January for Italy.

At the urging of the ***European*** Commission, the ***European*** Council's European Crisis Response Mechanism met yesterday morning and "identified several options for a coordinated border reopening with identical measures". The aim is to bring back citizens of member states who are currently in Britain, Britons who reside in a ***European*** country and truck drivers who have been stranded across the Channel. Ursula von der Leyen's team is expected to issue guidelines today, which will then have to be discussed at a meeting between the ambassadors of the individual states.

In the meantime, the United Kingdom is isolated from the world. From Latin America to Canada, from Africa to the Middle East, many countries have decided to block flights.

There were also bad signals on the market front. Yesterday the world's stock exchanges suffered a thud, frightened by possible new lockdowns but also by the possibility of a "hard Brexit". In ***Europe,*** 202.63 billion euro went up in smoke. Wall Street fell, but then closed almost at parity thanks to the economic stimuli launched by Congress. Oil also fell, with the WTI losing almost 4%.

The only good news comes from the WHO, which says that the new Covid variant 'is not out of control, but cannot be left to its own devices'.

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500 Mila

people

in Great Britain

who have

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B.1.1.7 is a variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that has recently been identified in the UK and appears to be able to spread more easily than the others.

Blocking flights

and isolation

As a precaution, several countries - including Italy - suspended flights to and from the UK. In the Netherlands, the variant was isolated in at least one individual, and the same happened in Italy.

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**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%)

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[***Conte ready to revise the team for the Funds EU The Pd: enough immobilism; The backstage***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-904V-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 15

**Length:** 875 words

**Byline:** Marco Galluzzo and Maria Teresa Meli

**Highlight:** Chief executive's confidential contacts to secure stability

**Body**

ROME

Despite Matteo Renzi's assaults, the partly contradictory requests of the PD, with a part of the party supporting the head of government and another that seems to go along with the attacks of Italia Viva, by now Giuseppe Conte is convinced that he cannot grant almost anything that is asked of him, except a change in the command structure of the Recovery fund, but not even immediate, because at the moment, as yesterday's and today's meetings show, there is only one thing to be done, and quickly, to save the overall project of spending ***European*** funds. As for the governance structure, it will be seen in the coming days or even in January, and in the Council of Ministers.

In short, the only thing that the Prime Minister is currently working on in order to meet Renzi's requests is a change in the control room that will have to monitor and spend the ***European*** funds, a more political and less technical structure, with greater involvement of technical experts from the ministries and without adopting the manager model: six managers were planned, one for each macro sector of the Recovery, a hypothesis that will most likely be dropped.

On everything else Conte wants to remove himself from the dock: on the MES his hands are tied by the Five Stars, on the delegation for the secret services he does not want to give in because it would be depowered, on the same posts of the Recovery Fund there are the guidelines of the ***European*** Commission to be respected, and therefore having reached the bottom of a possible crisis that has his person in its sights, at least that's what the prime minister thinks, and not so much the merit of things, so much the better to go ahead and continue working. If Italia Viva really wants to open a crisis and remove confidence, it will have to be done formally in Parliament, and on this point the head of government is both worried and determined, but "everything depends on Renzi, not on me, I am available to negotiate, only if there is a real willingness...".

Conte also discussed the matter with the head of state last Saturday, in a meeting at the Colle that remained confidential, as did the contacts that Sergio Mattarella had with the other majority leaders on the same day. A face-to-face meeting of at least ten minutes at Palazzo Chigi last Thursday between Conte and Renzi, before the meeting with the delegation of Italia Viva, also remained confidential. A series of confrontations that would only confirm the conviction that everything is in Renzi's hands, if he wants to open a crisis in the dark it will be up to the former premier, with all the possible consequences, starting with the search for another majority, as per institutional practice, at least as a first step.

And today Italia Viva will meet the Prime Minister. Ettore Rosato preceded the appointment with a declaration of peace: "The meetings called by Conte seem to me to be a positive fact". And Renzi is gloating: "With the two per cent, as they always like to remind us, we have already achieved this result". But it would be a mistake to think that the leader of Iv is ready to stop: "We," he explains to his own, "are now relaunching on the Mes. We must take it, because we cannot forget that we are the country with the highest number of deaths, and we must allocate the 9 billion provided by the Recovery for health to tourism and culture. He then closed by saying that Renzi's objective was clear: "Either there is agreement on everything, or there is no agreement. In that case, if Conte finds that he no longer has a majority and Mattarella decides to go to the polls, we have the election campaign ready. We won't discount those who didn't want the Mes". But in reality Renzi does not believe in early voting at all: "The truth," he told a group of Iv senators, "is that Conte is trying to water down the audit and corner me, but they can't do it with me. And to the parliamentarians Renzi delivers this message: "Don't extend your holidays too much in January...".

And the PD? Renzi's acceleration forced Zingaretti to defend the premier in some way. This is why the Dem delegation meeting Conte, at the end of the interview, let it be known that they were very satisfied with the way things were going: "Two significant confirmations emerged from the meeting with the premier. The first is that the draft on the Recovery will be promptly approved, the second is that Parliament will have time to make its final assessment," says Andrea Marcucci. It's a pity that in that delegation there are those who say that the draft was not presented during the meeting. And Zingaretti, although satisfied that something is unblocked, is still worried: "Enough with the immobilism, we need a change of mar cia", he recommends to his people.

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The word

These are changes that occur within the government team without the resignation of the entire executive. Compared to a government crisis (with subsequent change of the team of prime ministers and ministers) it is usually faster and presents more targeted interventions. In Italy over the decades of the republican history it has been used very frequently. In the case of the Conte II government, in order to carry out a reshuffle, one or more ministers would have to resign to allow for the changeover

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Policy (94%); Politics (92%); Economic Growth (75%); Labor + Employment (71%); Surgery + Transplantation (68%); Labor Unions (63%); Immigration (62%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Queues at supermarkets, lorries stopped at Dover The Kingdom without Christmas is now really scared; The Tale***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-9043-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

22 December 2020 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 3

**Length:** 744 words

**Byline:** Luigi Ippolito

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

London The first queues began to lengthen as early as six o'clock in the morning: people lined up in front of supermarkets waiting for them to open, fearful of not being able to fill their shopping carts.

Because it was not enough for more than 40 countries, including Italy, to cut off air links with Britain: France has completely blocked the borders, closing the ***Eurotunnel*** under the English Channel and suspending sea routes. This has forced the closure of the port of Dover, the terminal through which most of the goods between the Continent and Britain pass: and so there are now fears for supplies in a country that imports a quarter of its food from ***Europe***.

The government has appealed to the population to avoid panic, not to engage in a hoarding race that would only precipitate the situation. But a large supermarket chain such as Sainsbury's has warned that in the next few days the shelves could begin to run out of fruit and vegetables, most of which come from outside. Even the arrival of vaccine vials in hospitals is no longer guaranteed. So people are starting to get scared.

The scenes seen yesterday on the motorways leading to the English coast told of a dramatic situation. Hundreds of lorries stranded, unable to embark for ***Europe***, drivers forced into improvised bivouacs, police diverting traffic who knows where. The government had to set up a contingency plan to park lorries on Kent's motorways and even one of the local airports was put on alert to be turned into a giant improvised service area.

London also woke up in a daze yesterday. A total lockdown was triggered after the capital became the epicentre of the new variant of the coronavirus, the one that is transmitted much faster: in the last week, the number of infected people in the city has even doubled.

And so yesterday morning, an underground station like Bond Street, which should be packed to the rafters at Christmas, looked like a frightening abandoned cathedral of deserted platforms and escalators. Instead of people, flashing displays read 'Stay at home' and the warning 'there's a new variant of Covid spreading even faster'.

But there was no need for warnings either. On Oxford Street, the shopping street that was supposed to be a festive celebration these days, sparse and bewildered passers-by passed by. The windows of Selfridge's, the luxury department store, had something sinister about them: full of decorations and presents, but inexorably boarded up.

Christmas in London is cancelled. And it was yet another turnaround by Boris Johnson: until a week ago he assured that banning family gatherings for the holidays would be inhumane. So he insisted that the planned easing of restrictions could go ahead. Then the new virus arrived and the situation got completely out of hand. The capital and surrounding regions were sealed off, causing people to run to the station to catch the last train. But now the new Covid variant is spreading to the whole of England, and it is not excluded that more draconian measures may have to be imposed on the whole country.

Johnson keeps assuring that there is no need to worry, that the country has sufficient supplies, that the measures taken will work, that everything will be fine by Easter. But no one believes him anymore: there have been too many backward steps, too many embarrassments, too many contradictions of a government that always seems to be one step behind events. And which now risks being overwhelmed by them.

Because the unstoppable spiral of Covid is about to enter a collision course with Brexit. Negotiations with the ***EU are*** stalled and the deadline of 31 December, when Britain will leave the single market for good, is looming: without an agreement, it will be a leap in the dark. Already in recent weeks the terminals to ***Europe*** were congested due to the race to make preventive stocks: now everything is blocked, but in ten days there is a risk of a collapse of trade, since duties and customs will return.

And it is a lost and confused Britain that wonders when it will be able to re-emerge from the nightmare.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Disaster + Emergency Relief (88%); Government Departments + Authorities (88%); Hunger In Society (76%); Globalization (75%); Conferences + Conventions (69%); ***European*** Union (69%); Animals (65%); Diseases + Disorders (64%); Influenza (64%); Viruses (64%)

**Industry:** Airports (94%); Livestock Disease (86%); Alcoholic Beverages (83%); Energy + Utilities (69%); Nuclear Power Plants (69%); Oil + Gas Industry (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***the season of alibis is over; Parties and verifications***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-TX71-F13X-903V-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

22 December 2020 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.32

**Length:** 809 words

**Byline:** Daniele Manca

**Body**

What can we expect from this series of meetings on the Next Generation ***EU*** between ministers and the various parties that make up the ***EU?***

the majority? Are we to think that depending on

of the party met

allocation or appropriations may change whether it is health or infrastructure or Industry 4.0? Or maybe a few more words here

and there on a plan that should arrive in Brussels within a couple of weeks so that it can begin to be funded? Whatever the answers, there seems to be an emerging lack

of awareness

of drama

situation.

The British have just announced a new variant of the virus. But this news was not necessary to show that we have to live with Covid for a long time yet. The relief felt at the arrival of the first doses of the vaccine has already been tempered by the nervousness with which

Italy is reacting to yet another negative development. The fragility and disunity of a majority and a government that seems to have lost even a method of working is emerging, so episodic does its action appear to be.

In a debate that is more suited to an election campaign than to problem-solving, every single difference of vision is poured on to the citizens, as if it were up to them to decide how to get on with the day-to-day business. Is it possible that

political leaders failed to talk to each other.

in these weeks?

That they have not found areas, other than a camera or, worse, a social networking site, in which to unload dissatisfaction and differences? Or that the Council of Ministers and Parliament with the opposition have not come up with useful decisions and solutions while the list of victims grows longer every day?

If ideological prejudices had been avoided, we would long ago have been able to access the MES, alleviating the pain of many families. The suspicion is that if 37 billion Euro had been available for healthcare, who knows if the government and public administration would have been able to launch a plan other than spending money. With that amount of money available, we could have aspired to a better and more effective health system.

"Political leadership is about making difficult decisions even before others realise the need for them and carrying them through with allies, oppositions and the country itself. It is often a matter of pragmatism and compromise,' wrote the Financial Times yesterday of Boris Johnson, lamenting his delays. The same could be said for our politics and our government. It is testimony to the fact that there is no alleged Italian exception, an exception used for too long as a convenient alibi. What is needed instead is an assumption of responsibility by the government. The time of promises and "we will do" is over. The Next Generation ***EU*** is a historic opportunity for our country. It is so called precisely because it is not the property of this executive or this majority, but of the next generations.

***Europe*** wanted to anchor it to the budget that will take the Union to 2027. As has happened in France, Germany and Spain, Italy should also designate the minister who will be responsible for its implementation. Instead, talks are currently taking place between the government and the parties on the "governance" of the plan. But that term indicates the clear, transparent identification of responsibilities. Something, evidently, that already through the use of an English word, is not among the first priorities.

Not a task force. The responsibility must be political. Because behind the incandescent discussions on possible new bodies to be dedicated to the implementation of operational plans lies the real Italian obstacle: not being able to transform decisions into concrete acts. We understand that making the public administration work is not very "sellable" to the voters. But it is what citizens, families and businesses need.

"Governing implies taking on a solution. Not merely taking charge of a problem", writes Giuseppe Maria Berruti in his recent "The Constitution of Change". Thanks to the good work of the ***MEPs, the*** pre-financing from ***Europe*** has been increased by about 30%. Another 6 or 7 billion available immediately, telling us once again how strongly Brussels is committed to fighting this health and economic crisis.

So the resources are there. The priorities, however, are less so: they are still identified in a flurry of key words such as digitalisation, infrastructure and so on. Thus constant priorities are exchanged (the same today as 20 years ago), from things to be done immediately and which only politics, government and opposition, can do. And that is: make the state work, otherwise no project will ever have legs to walk on; reactivate the market without which there can be no growth, the only remedy for the economic emergency.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Economic Policy (63%); National Debt (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Merkel tightens lockdown: minimal contacts; in europe Germany***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PC-CNF1-F13X-92P2-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

6 January 2021 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 653 words

**Byline:** from our Berlin correspondent Paolo Valentino

**Highlight:** The situation So far 317,000 people have been injected with a first dose of BionTech-Pfizer's vaccine

**Body**

Faced with the spread of the pandemic, which in the last 24 hours has registered 12,000 new infections and almost a thousand deaths, Germany is adopting new and stricter restrictive measures in an attempt to regain control. In addition to extending the current lockdown until 31 January, the federal government and the prime ministers of the 16 Länder have decided to introduce a severe restriction on freedom of movement in the Covid-19 hotspots: in future, residents in areas with an incidence of more than 200 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants over the course of a week will not be allowed to travel more than 15 kilometres from their homes, except for essential and demonstrable reasons. Until now, this measure was only in force in the eastern Land of Saxony.

Other restrictions relate to private gatherings, which up to now have been allowed for five people from two households, and which from now on will be limited to visits by only one person from outside the household. Measures to prevent mutated versions of the virus, such as the one discovered in Great Britain, from reaching Germany are also being tightened up: anyone coming from risk countries will not only have to show a negative swab no older than 48 hours, but will also have to undergo a 10-day quarantine that will be monitored more strictly.

The current lockdown imposes the total closure of restaurants, bars, shops, gyms, cinemas, theatres, saunas and beauty centres. Schools and kindergartens, which were excluded from the general shutdown until 16 December, will also remain closed until the end of the month. To compensate working parents, the government is providing extra family allowances. The chancellor's line has been accepted. "We have to limit contacts even more and we are asking citizens to reduce them to an absolute minimum", said Angela Merkel at the end of the summit with the prime ministers, according to whom the new measures, "although harsh, are absolutely justified". An initial check on their effectiveness is scheduled for 25 January. The figure of 12,000 new infections is actually misleading, since not only were fewer swabs taken over the festive period, but also the Gesundheitsaemter (health authorities) did not regularly transmit their data to the Robert Koch Institute. More significant are the mortality figures, which are almost at their highest level since spring, and the incidence, which on a national average remains around 135 new infections per 100,000 people in a week and even reaches 300 in Saxony. Merkel reiterated that the goal is to bring the incidence of the pandemic below 50.

Meanwhile, the vaccination campaign continues amidst controversy. Since it began in Germany shortly after Christmas, 317,000 people have so far been injected with a first dose of the BionTech-Pfizer vaccine. According to the government's critics, first and foremost the conservative Bild Zeitung, always ready to stir up populist sentiment, which reproaches the Chancellor for having favoured the ***European*** solution, entrusting the purchase and distribution of vaccines to the ***EU*** Commission. Merkel responded by saying that her government "does not want any national solution". But the issue of the slow pace of vaccinations, relative of course when compared to Italy's dramatic delays, has been raised and has created tensions within the government, where the SPD has shifted the responsibility onto Health Minister Jens Spahn. The fact that there is a problem is confirmed by yesterday's summit decision, which set a target of 4 million doses to be delivered to vaccination centres by 1 February.

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The number of new cases in Germany yesterday in the last 24 hours and 944 deaths. This brings the total number of coronavirus infections in Germany since the start of the pandemic to 1,787,410 and the total number of deaths in the country to 35,518.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Diseases + Disorders (94%); Viruses (94%); Influenza (87%); Epidemics (75%)

**Load-Date:** January 6, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Bans, exams: some close to Italians; THE TRIPS***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-JS21-F13X-94CS-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 February 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 8

**Length:** 589 words

**Byline:** Alessandra Arachi

**Highlight:** Jordan, Mauritius, Kuwait, Seychelles prohibit entry. Enac: check flights with companies Often advised to isolate themselves (even from ***EU*** offices) The Americans The US embassy asks its citizens to avoid the "affected areas".

**Body**

ROME

In the middle of the day yesterday, Enac, the body that controls civil aviation, cut the bull's eye: 'Call your airline directly to check that your flight is actually operational'. In the middle of the day yesterday it was difficult to keep up with the restrictive measures raining down on Italy from around the world because of our coronavirus infections, and although most countries are not closing their airports to Italian flights, the experience of tourists in Mauritius has become a warning. So much so that the passengers on the cruise ship Msc Meraviglia - Italians and French - did not disembark at the port of Ocho Rios, in Jamaica, since the local authorities denied them permission. The ban - explains Tpi,

The Post International

- has arrived because a crew member has developed flu-like symptoms. "I'm on holiday with my son, we were supposed to disembark in the Cayman Islands, then Cozumel, Bahamas and we should be back in Miami next Sunday," says a passenger, "at this point I don't know what will happen, but the fear is that now all the ports will turn us away.

"Italians can continue to travel," guarantees our Health Minister Roberto Speranza, who yesterday met with his counterparts from Austria, France, Slovenia, Switzerland, Croatia, Germany and also with ***EU*** Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, and said: "Our national health service, our doctors and scientists are considered to be of the highest level in ***Europe***. There is trust on the part of everyone. In Italy there will be confidence, no doubt, but the truth is that the fear of this virus has the upper hand, and precautions are being taken on all sides, starting with the ***European Union,*** which has urged Commission officials not to travel to Lombardy, or to put themselves in isolation if they have been in Italy in the last fourteen days: they advise replacing travel with teleconferences. "Our borders will not be closed," guaranteed Minister Speranza, reiterating at the same time that our decision to block flights to and from China was a sensible measure.

So far, four states have banned entry: Jordan, Mauritius, Kuwait and Seychelles. But countries closer to us have also equipped themselves, led by Romania, which imposes quarantine for those arriving from the 'red zones', and France, which invites people not to travel to Italy, as well as North Macedonia and Ireland. In Great Britain, they are calling for a self-isolation for Italians arriving from the outbreaks, but also from northern Italy (above Rimini, Florence, Pisa). In London yesterday, they decided to close two schools after some students returned from two school trips to northern Italy, a class of twenty-nine returning from Bormio.

D to the US, the State Department urges US citizens to check websites and social accounts for the latest information. The US embassy in Rome has issued several warnings to American citizens to avoid the areas indicated by the government as "affected". In the meantime, Luigi Di Maio, foreign minister, summoned the ambassadors of foreign countries accredited in Italy to inform them about the progress of the contagion.

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The body

Ente nazionale per l'aviazione civile is the Italian authority for technical regulation, certification and supervision in the field of civil aviation under the control of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Aircraft (94%); Epidemics (63%); Viruses (63%)

**Industry:** Aviation Accidents + Safety (87%); Airports (73%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Brussels warns Italy on debt. Berlin, zero growth; Report EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-JS21-F13X-94FG-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 February 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 30

**Length:** 214 words

**Byline:** Giovanni Stringa

**Body**

Today, the ***European*** Commission is expected to put Italy on the list of countries with excessive economic imbalances once again, calling it out for too high debt, low productivity, low investment and the necessary structural reforms still to be made: these are the expectations for the "country reports" that Brussels will publish today.

But the problems also concern the heart of ***Europe*** and its now former locomotive: the stalling of the German economy is official. In the fourth quarter of 2019, gross domestic product remained stagnant compared to the previous three months, according to final figures from the statistics institute Destatis. The economy was mainly held back by export numbers and a sharp drop in business investment. By contrast, the comparison with the last quarter of 2018 is positive, albeit by a small margin: in this case, GDP rose by 0.4%. Now, with the coronavirus crisis (China is Germany's biggest trading partner), the German economy risks new shocks. So much so that in February the Ifo index of export business confidence fell to -0.7 from 0.8 points in January, according to "Handelsblatt".

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-2 per cent: the fall in investment in machinery and equipment in Germany

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Growth (94%); Gross Domestic Product (84%); Prices (69%); Economic Conditions (63%); National Debt (62%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***In France only 531 tests UK over 6,000; Comparison with the rest of EuropeEurope***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-JS21-F13X-94CX-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 February 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 208 words

**Byline:** S. Mon.

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS Are there more cases in Italy because more are being sought and therefore found? "I don't think this is a possible explanation," says the director general of French health, Jérome Salomon. "The criteria for testing people are the same across ***Europe***. I believe that the Italian situation depends, if anything, on a particular condition that is not Italy's responsibility: patient zero has not been found. It is normal that more tests are done. It could have happened in any other country. How many tests have been carried out in France? At 6pm on 24 February, there were 531 cases under investigation, with 12 positive. Two more cases were announced yesterday evening. This is a much smaller number than the 8,600 swabs carried out in Italy. But in France, the emergency was dealt with by evacuating French citizens from Wuhan, without blocking flights from China, and by isolating the outbreak in the village of Contamines at an early stage. The authorities believe they have now contained the spread of the virus. Germany does not provide the number of tests, while in Britain 6,795 people were tested with only 13 positive cases.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Diseases + Disorders (94%); Viruses (81%); Chronic Diseases (73%); Epidemics (70%); Medical Diagnostics, Screening + Testing (69%)

**Industry:** Livestock Disease (71%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A PRECARIOUS TREATY THAT DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS; The Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-JS21-F13X-94DD-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 February 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 19

**Length:** 514 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Body**

Once upon a time there was the seemingly insurmountable problem of the statute of limitations. The "decisive" meeting between Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and Iv leader Matteo Renzi was being prepared. The government would be called to report to Parliament. Then, perhaps, Iv's no-confidence motion against the grillino Guardasigilli, Alfonso Bonafede, would have been discussed. And the M5S would have been re-founded with the States General. All of a sudden, all these issues have been shrunk and downgraded by the health emergency of the coronavirus. Even the referendum on cutting the number of parliamentarians, scheduled for 29 March, has faded into the background, to the point where some have suggested it should be postponed.

But the limbo will not last indefinitely. And the question is whether at the end of this sudden suspension there will be a return to the game of cunning, expediency and calculations that have always undermined the government majority. Slowly, and with difficulty, an attempt is being made to construct a simulacrum of national unity to counter the effects of the coronavirus emergency; and to correct an image that the controversy has deformed, with the risk of isolating Italy internationally. But in the background all the problems remain, diplomatised by necessity.

There is a growing feeling that the parties, both majority and opposition, are using what is happening in these days to gain an advantage in view of the resumption of politics, when it comes. But it is not clear whether the beginning of the epidemic, which has reduced previous disagreements to instrumental quarrels, will be a lesson; or whether in the end it will only be a parenthesis between a quarrel and a trifle. Palazzo Chigi is trying to legitimise itself for the rest of the legislature.

The Minister of Sport, Vincenzo Spadafora, claims that what is happening allows him to expand the agenda of his activities. And in the hustle and bustle of the Salvini League, poised between attacks and half-openings to the government, there is a fear that it could really happen. The Carroccio's problem is that the desire to show the executive as a disaster, and Italy at the mercy of the coronavirus, clashes with the need to safeguard the image of 'its' northern regions: Lombardy and Veneto, the most affected by the epidemic. So the question is how to overcome this phase without appearing defeatist, and at the same time continuing to point the finger at Conte and the majority as disasters.

When the Prime Minister assures that Italians can travel around ***Europe*** without infecting anyone, the League can hardly disagree. And when the Health Minister, Roberto Speranza, assures that the ***EU*** ministers agree not to close the borders, it weakens the League's self-defeating propaganda and counteracts the right's anti-European vulgate. But it is likely that once the practice of contagion is over, the Carroccio will resume its offensive against the "absent ***Europe***"; and M5S, PD and Iv will find themselves at loggerheads in government. It is difficult to have any illusions: a precarious truce is emerging that does not follow but prepares for a stormy return to unresolved issues.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (93%); Tobacco + Health (81%); Campaigns + Elections (75%); Economic Crisis (75%); Immigration (75%); Labor + Employment (75%); Business Forecasts (73%); Economic Growth (73%); Politics (71%); Mergers + Acquisitions (70%); Economic Policy (69%); Riots (68%); Central Banks (67%); Excise Tax (67%); Aging (63%); Senior Citizens (63%); Strikes (63%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"It's time for national unity No to those who speculate for votes"; CONTE***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-JS21-F13X-94CJ-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 February 2020 Wednesday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 3

**Length:** 1308 words

**Byline:** Monica Guerzoni

**Highlight:** PM: Salvini attacks me? By stoking fear he is not serving the nation's interests Italy expects everyone to be responsible

**Body**

President Conte, Italy is third in the world in the sad coronavirus ranking and in one day the cases have increased by 45%. Why?

"We are working hard, using the best experts, to manage this emergency in the most effective way. We are facing a challenge in which each of us has to contribute. The number of infections should not alarm us. It is, however, the result of an energetic and rigorous course of action and efficient controls, put in place immediately. We are working to ensure that tomorrow, looking back, we will not be able to reproach ourselves for anything.

The WHO is very concerned about Italy. What has not worked in the government's strategy?

"The WHO is rightly paying attention to the evolution that the spread of the virus is having in Italy. We share a priority objective, the health of our citizens. We have immediately tackled the emergency with appropriate and proportionate measures, working closely with leading experts in the field of virology, and we are absolutely determined to contain the spread of the virus. When we have reconstructed the genealogical map of the contagion we will be able to better understand the origin of its spread.

Was closing flights counterproductive?

"The interruption of traffic has enabled us to significantly limit the risk of contagion from people from the Chinese hotbeds of infection. About 12,000 passengers a week were arriving in Italy on direct flights, and it was not possible to set up an effective quarantine system. After the ban on direct flights, we immediately put in place measures for all flights from abroad. Using thermal scanners, we checked all passengers who disembarked at our airports, around 50,000 passengers a day at Fiumicino alone".

It was not enough, unfortunately.

"We have put in place a meticulous control mechanism, with a great deal of resources and energy, but within the limits of proportionality. The experts on the Scientific and Technical Committee tell us that the measures put in place should have a positive impact on containing the spread of the virus.

Can the national health system withstand the impact of a possible pandemic?

"We are working hard to achieve the primary objective of preventing a pandemic. Our healthcare model can count on a great deal of expertise and professionalism. We have to be extremely careful, but we must not be intimidated or over-dramatise.

Supermarkets are under attack, how do you deal with the panic?

"Panic is a completely unjustified reaction that undermines the overall efficiency of the system and triggers regrettable speculation on the prices of certain products. Food supply will be ensured with appropriate measures especially in the cluster areas. Calm is restored through timely and transparent communication."

President Fontana denounces the "Civil Protection's shortcomings".

"The ethical imperative of cooperation now applies. In the face of such a national emergency, any political distraction is out of place. The civil protection is our excellence, which guarantees us the coordination of the various activities and maximum efficiency".

Is the closure of all schools fake news?

"It is extremely serious to speculate on an emergency, dangerously fuelling panic. The only reliable information is that provided by official sources and channels. We have entrusted Dr Borrelli with the task of providing daily updates.

Many countries are closing their doors in our faces. Is Italy heading for isolation?

"The emergency is affecting different areas of the planet. Italy is showing great responsibility, there is no credibility to recover. On the contrary, we are an example of responsibility and reliability. We have immediately adopted draconian measures. We are in contact with our ***European*** partners and we are working in concert with the international framework in the interest of all ***European*** citizens".

How do you plan to support industry and tourism?

"We are working on a package of structural economic measures for the various sectors affected, from manufacturing to tourism. In the next few days, summits will be convened with the trade unions and businesses to define these measures in detail and to prepare a more comprehensive shock therapy to accelerate investment spending".

Have your choices contributed to the collapse of Italy's image in the world?

"This is the time for national cohesion and unity, not controversy. Italy expects a responsible attitude from all political forces, inspired by cooperation and professionalism. Our decisions are always based on the assessments of the technical and scientific committee. In the public debate people say anything and everything, but we must trust the experts' judgement and then always take into account the concrete feasibility of the solutions, not limiting ourselves to evaluating them only in the abstract".

For the League, you are a 'fascist' who wants 'full powers'.

"To those who want to speculate and to those who accuse us of wanting to assume 'full powers', I reply that we are working in full agreement with the territorial governments and that the measures adopted are designed to be appropriate, effective and consistent with the principle of proportionality."

Is it true that on the phone with Salvini you were self-critical about the Codogno hospital?

"This is not the time for controversy. Those who think they can profit in terms of consensus, by fuelling fear, are not doing the nation's interest. We have an emergency that severely engages us and a country to take care of."

Is the Cabin de Regia a kind of commissioning of the regions?

"Unnecessary controversy has been fuelled. The control room is essential for the coordination of initiatives. The emergency must unite us, not divide us. My only concern is to protect the Italians. The government is working with team spirit to tackle an emergency we have never faced before. With courage and determination we will succeed, we are a great nation".

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Panic? Reaction

unjustified: it compromises the overall efficiency of the system.

and triggers deplorable speculation on the prices of certain products.

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The word

civil protection

The Civil Protection Department, set up by Law 225 of 1992, is the structure that reports to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and is responsible at national level for forecasting, preventing, managing and overcoming disasters, calamities and emergency situations.

Interventions

The budget for red zones

The Minister for the Economy Roberto Gualtieri (Pd)

signed a decree allocating 20 million euros

of ***euros*** for the coronavirus emergency,

a measure

which aims to meet the needs of residents in the 11 isolated municipalities

red zones

of Lombardy and Veneto

1

Planned aid

for enterprises

Even the M5S minister

Foreign Affairs Minister Luigi Di Maio said

to have raised funds

for an allocation

300 million to support "Made in Italy" and exports "to more mature markets, as the Asian region will suffer a strong backlash," he said.

2

Stop tax payments

The decree signed

by Minister Gualtieri provides for the suspension of payments of taxes, withholding taxes, etc.

and tax obligations for residents

and for companies operating in the 10 municipalities of Lodigiano in Lombardy and Vo' Euganeo in Veneto

3

Mortgage payments suspended

The government has also agreed with the Italian Banking Association (Abi) to temporarily suspend mortgage payments for all residents in the red zones. It has also been foreseen,

stopping files

of payment and those resulting from enforcement assessments

4

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Health Care Professionals (94%); Public Health (83%); Agriculture Regulation + Policy (82%); Closings (76%); Diseases + Disorders (70%); Education Administration (69%); Food Safety (69%); Food Security (69%); Hunger In Society (69%); Product Safety (69%); Politics (67%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (63%); Fuel Tax (61%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***25 billion in aid ready First home mortgages: suspended instalments, rent subsidies; First floor The health emergency THE MEASURES The government package has been unanimously approved Ursula von der Leyen Baretta's message of solidarity: 2 billion for health care coming soon***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-4J81-JDMV-K075-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

12 March 2020 Thursday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 6

**Length:** 705 words

**Byline:** Enrico Marro

**Highlight:** Your example is valuable for everyone Italy is part of ***Europe***, and ***Europe*** suffers with Italy We are all Italians

**Body**

ROME The Council of Ministers has voted a record 25 billion euros. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte was "delighted" with the "great collaboration" with ***Europe*** and launched, together with economic ministers Roberto Gualtieri and Nunzia Catalfo, new measures for social shock absorbers and aid to companies and families. The Chamber of Deputies approved by a large majority the report on the authorisation of the budget variance, with the yes of the oppositions, which also presented their own text. A step that in fact brings the ratio between the deficit and gross domestic product to 3.3%. This is well above the fateful 3% threshold envisaged by ***European*** constraints, which Italian politicians have been fighting over for years.

The breakthrough

But among the many things in our lives that the Coronavirus is changing is also the attitude of the ***European Union***. Yesterday, the president of the ***European*** Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said that new resources are on the way for our country, adding that "in this moment in ***Europe*** we are all Italians". Prime Minister Conte expressed his appreciation for the climate in ***Europe***: "We will work in coordination, we will send our scientists to create a ***European*** task force to promote research and fight this unknown virus". Minister Gualtieri agrees, hoping for "common ***European*** resources that can lighten the impact on the state budget, even if our finances are solid". The oppositions support the government, even if they reiterate their proposals: a general lockout for 15 days, funds for at least 30 billion and a single commissioner for the coronavirus emergency.

The Commissioner

As for the appointment of a super commissioner, the Prime Minister said he was willing to expand "the organisational machine", but with a figure who would be responsible for purchasing equipment. However, this is not what the opposition is asking for: "Be careful," Conte explained, "we are talking about healthcare, not post-earthquake reconstruction. The Regions are responsible for healthcare, and I don't think it would be in the least effective to take their powers away from them. I say this clearly: it would be a mistake. Matteo Renzi, who supports the government but then berates the Prime Minister, makes himself heard: "It's true, it's not like the earthquake: it's worse. A super commissioner is needed. He added: "Enough schizophrenia, you can't make a dpcm every day".

Incoming measures

Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri explains how the resources allocated by the government will be used: "They will be used in part in the first decree, which will be approved on Friday, and will be about 12 billion. The other resources constitute a reserve allocation for possible future interventions to be carried out also within a ***European*** framework". With regard to the first measure, the one to be approved on Friday, the anticipations are confirmed. Two billion Euro have been allocated for health and civil protection. The Civil Protection will be able to "requisition" movable and immovable property, including hotels, to deal with the emergency. The redundancy fund, essentially part of the salary paid by the State to those who work for a company that stops, is made universal, i.e. it can also be used by companies with fewer than five employees. The aim, as Gualtieri explains, is that "no one loses their job because of the coronavirus, no one is fired". But coverage will also be guaranteed for those who are not covered by the redundancy fund, such as seasonal workers, starting with those in tourism, the self-employed, including entertainment workers, and those with fixed-term contracts.

The family

The family package is confirmed, with an extra 15 days of parental leave for working parents with children under 12 at home due to school closures, or the 600 ***euro*** voucher to pay for a babysitter. A postponement of payment deadlines is still being considered for rents. The same is true for mortgage payments, but Gualtieri explained that the intervention will not be linked to income but to the fact that the person has been directly affected by the emergency in recent weeks. The same reasoning applies to the postponement of taxes and contributions for those damaged by the crisis.

Alessandro Trocino

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Policy (92%); Economic Growth (76%)

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[***the parachute ofEurope***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-4J81-JDMV-K079-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

12 March 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 7

**Length:** 675 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Body**

In 2008, at the height of the financial contagion that had gripped the world's banks in a vice-like grip, Angela Merkel quoted Goethe: "If everyone swept in front of their doors, every quarter of the city would be clean". She rejected the idea of a ***European*** response to stop the landslide.

The then French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who had proposed it, translated: Chacun sa merde . Then the German Chancellor moved on to getting 44 state aids to banks approved. It would take another three years and incalculable damage before she agreed to a common ***eurozone*** approach to the crisis. That a Goethe quote is in the air this time too is beginning to be discernible from certain small signs. Not from the chancellor's words, though always cautious. When Merkel recalls that the Stability Pact has "sufficient flexibility for extraordinary situations", she also says that those rules apply to Italy in any case: no deficit above 3% of GDP (almost impossible to comply with in 2020) and only targeted and limited interventions. And when he specifies that he will "do whatever is necessary", he is saying something different from the "whatever it takes" that Mario Draghi at the ***European*** Central Bank said eight years ago and Italy with Emmanuel Macron, now in place of Sarkozy, would like to make into the governments' common approach to the coming recession.

The signs that Goethe's syndrome is creeping in can be seen. The day before yesterday in the ***European*** leaders' teleconference, only Italy, France and Spain asked for a common plan to relaunch the economy. It is not the 25 billion ***euro package*** willingly offered by the ***EU*** Commission: faced with the collapse in demand, the risk of bankruptcy of airlines, entire sectors of tourism and infrastructure, a package of hundreds of billions is needed. And immediately, given the collapse underway in some countries and imminent in others. Done together by all governments, this plan would have the multiplier effect of simultaneity and a signal of confidence to citizens.

Merkel, on the other hand, said little the other day. But it was clear that she is mainly preparing to ask for a suspension of state aid rules to allow her to settle her unresolved issues. The problems of Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, the two German credit giants, have to be resolved, and stock market prices show that four-fifths of their balance sheets are worth zero. Lufthansa is at risk and had to cancel 23,000 flights in April alone. The Chancellor wants to sweep the snow from her doorstep and is counting on the fact that Germany has as many as 29 intensive care beds for every 100,000 inhabitants: the highest number in ***Europe***, twice as many as France and three times more than Italy.

As for the Netherlands and the Scandinavians, they are even more reluctant in the face of the proposals of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Spain's Pedro Sánchez and Macron. A sign of such reticence was seen yesterday in Brussels when the ambassadors of the 27 countries were given the agenda for the next ***European*** summit on 26-27 March. It was unchanged from weeks ago, with the biggest pandemic in half a century just added at the bottom of the page.

Against this backdrop, the ECB will once again be left alone to keep the system afloat. Under Lagarde's new leadership, it will announce a lot today: fewer regulatory constraints on banks, new liquidity to lend to businesses throttled by the pandemic, perhaps even an increase in purchases of government bonds (quantitative easing) and an even more negative rate cut. Lagarde insists, and will still insist, on filing Goethe to react all together. And it is not certain that in the end, with the Chancellor, she will be more convincing than Sarkozy.

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The word

Quantitative easing is the policy by which the ECB - and other institutions around the world - buy government and other bonds to inject new money into the economy. It now amounts to 20 billion ***euro*** per month.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Public Debt (76%); Economic Crisis (65%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A NEW COURSE IN RELATIONS WITH BRUSSELS TAKES SHAPE; First floor Health emergency The Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-4J81-JDMV-K07C-00000-00&context=)

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12 March 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 526 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Highlight: The** executive's strategies Parliament votes unanimously on budget slippage But the strategy with the regions remains a case-by-case affair

**Body**

To claim that ***Europe*** has little solidarity this time would sound like a prejudiced polemic. The government's decision to invest ***€20*** billion with the "placet" of the Brussels institutions implies the beginning of the

a change of pace. It means that the ***European*** Commission has granted maximum flexibility to counter the Covid-19 emergency. In addition, the ECB

is preparing for liquidity injections to keep the economic system on its feet. And there is talk

of a kind of continental 'control room' against the epidemic: a decisive innovation

to arrive at a coordination that until now

has not been seen, overwhelmed by 'sovereignist' selfishness. The task of doing well shifts to the majority, oppositions, local authorities. Public opinion is responding with discipline to the alarm. And the health structures are doing their utmost. However, there remains an aura of uncertainty as to how the relationship between central power and the regions will evolve. The idea of a simplified chain of command has yet to take shape. And the fact that in Italy one decree is approved and then followed by another, while the regions tend to move in random order, conveys a sense of uncertainty that needs to be corrected.

Yesterday the mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella,

asked the regions for 'uniformity of behaviour'. And although Attilio Fontana, governor of Lombardy, claims the merits of a regionalised healthcare system, the problem remains. The overlapping competences seem to have been created to complicate decisions. And Palazzo Chigi is caught between the need to choose and the need to mediate, without being able to count on an intermediate government structure capable of giving a clear direction. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has made it clear that there will be no commissioner for the coronavirus, now defined as a "pandemic": no "emotional choices". According to Conte, it would be "a mistake to call on

the powers of the regions at central level'.

For this reason, the hypothesis of closing production activities in Lombardy was conditioned by Fontana's demands. After his letter to Palazzo Chigi, the decision seemed to hang in the balance until the very end. In any case, it confirms a strategy, perhaps inevitable, in a patchwork. On the other hand, the almost unanimous vote on the government's proposal, which provides for an extra 20 billion lire in deficit, is to be welcomed. Yesterday, the "yes" votes also came from the League, FdI and FI: a responsible gesture. Less appropriate is the parties' race to attribute credit for the result.

The Minister for Relations with Parliament, Federico D'Incà, of the M5S, underlines the "coordinated and constant work" of the entire government, in connection with the ***EU. For this reason,*** the criticism of an alleged "pilatesque attitude" of the ***European*** Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Paolo Gentiloni, of the Democratic Party, coming from the League, and the relaunch of the Carroccio leader, Matteo Salvini, according to whom "in the end we will not need less than one hundred billion ***euros***: I leave it to the records and then we will see", are noteworthy. It has the flavour of a tactical "plus one": a preventive move, to show a prescience to be claimed in the event of a worsening.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Policy (94%); Politics (90%); Tobacco + Health (90%); Heads Of State + Government (78%); National Debt (71%); ***European*** Union (70%); Economic Growth (68%); Fuel Tax (65%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (65%)

**Industry:** Budgets (69%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Merkel: take action or the virus will be everywhere Vienna closes its borders with Italy; Top story The health emergency THE CONTAGE IN THE WORLD***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-4J81-JDMV-K07X-00000-00&context=)

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12 March 2020 Thursday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 14

**Length:** 501 words

**Byline:** Paolo Valentino

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN "No appearances, no speeches, no leadership in the crisis", accused the Bild yesterday, once her supporter and for some time now her almost prejudicial enemy. But Angela Merkel had her answer ready. And at a press conference, flanked by the health minister and the director of the Robert Koch Institut, the chancellor once again stepped into the role of mother of the nation.

Calmly, without betraying emotions. But also without hiding anything about the seriousness of the situation: "The virus is among us," Merkel said, "no one is immune and there are currently no vaccines or treatments. Until we find them, we have to assume that 60%-70% of the German population will be infected. It is a dramatic announcement, which raises the alarm in Germany to the highest level, where in the last few days the Covid-19 epidemic has undergone a sudden surge, raising the number of infected people to over 1,600.

"We will do whatever it takes to get out of this," promised the Chancellor, who called the fight against time decisive: "The priority is to slow down the spread of the virus. It is essential to focus on what measures are appropriate on the basis of the experts' indications". She criticised the slowness with which the Länder are finally deciding to prohibit events with an audience of more than 1,000 people, despite a suggestion to this effect by Health Minister Jens Spahn. Merkel also commented on sporting events: "Playing football matches without an audience is not the worst thing that can happen to us in this situation".

But the chancellor also spoke as the leader of ***Europe***, calling for a coordinated EU response and explaining that "none of the ***EU***'s health systems should be left alone". Merkel criticised unilateral decisions, even without directly mentioning Austria's decision to close its borders to Italy: "Closing the borders is not the appropriate way to react to this challenge". Referring to Italy, the chancellor said she was "disturbed and concerned": "We think with sympathy of our Italian friends and their political leaders and hope that the measures taken can lead to a turnaround and an improvement". Merkel suggested a relaxation of the current ban on exports from Germany of masks, breathing kits, gloves and protective clothing. Merkel also opened the door to greater flexibility in the ***eurozone***: "There are the necessary margins to cope with emergency situations and we will not oppose investments by Italy in the health sector.

The chancellor's exit also put pressure on French President Emmanuel Macron, who is criticised in France for not doing enough: the Elysée chief announced a speech to the nation tomorrow. His spokeswoman, however, in response to a question, said that Italy had been wrong in some of its responses to the crisis.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Economic Growth (90%); Gross Domestic Product (83%); Politics (77%); Influenza (74%); Diseases + Disorders (70%); Associations + Organizations (68%); Nuclear Accidents (64%); Viruses (63%)

**Industry:** Energy + Utilities (64%); Nuclear Energy (64%); Nuclear Power Plants (64%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"Solidarity is a common pillar The Eurobonds? The funds EU funds are there"; INTERVIEW***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SH-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

27 March 2020 Friday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 10

**Length:** 924 words

**Byline:** Paolo Valentino

**Highlight:** German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas: ***EU*** Commission, EIB and EMF funds reach 410 billion Beware of misinformation from third countries

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN

Will the German government accept ***Eurobonds***?

"Solidarity in the ***European Union*** is the imperative of the moment. We can also achieve it with the existing means, such as those of the Commission's budget, the ***European*** Investment Bank and the ***European*** Stability Mechanism, the ESM, with its huge unused credit lines amounting to ***€*** 410 billion. What is important is to show solidarity in the emergency, also in financial terms, helping where it is most urgent.

Heiko Maas dodges the question on ***Eurobonds***, a topic that is still open within the federal government. But in his interview with Corriere, the first since the outbreak of Covid-19, the German foreign minister sends a strong message of solidarity, "a fundamental pillar of the ***European Union***".

Minister, after some initial uncertainties (I am referring to the decision to block the export of masks and protective materials, which was later revoked) Germany is giving a concrete sign of support to Italy in the fight against the coronavirus. What other support are you planning?

"Helping each other in ***Europe*** should be a matter of course for all of us. Solidarity, especially in difficult times, is a fundamental pillar of the ***European Union***. Already in the migration crisis we have not always managed to put this principle into practice, also with regard to Italy. Last week's images of military convoys carrying coffins moved me deeply. I am therefore very pleased that we can help in a concrete way. Last week there was a first partial delivery of seven tonnes of aid, including ventilators and anaesthetic equipment. Others will follow; we are currently clarifying the exact needs with the Italian government. Even more important: on Tuesday, the first two intensive care patients from Bergamo were received at the Leipzig University Clinic. In the meantime, German clinics have offered a total of 63 places. These are just as many lives that we are trying to save. I very much appreciate the cooperation with my colleague Luigi Di Maio. We work together amicably and we talk to each other all the time to interact even more closely.

In the face of the danger of pandemics, don't you think it's time to create ***European*** coordination on health?

"With the coronavirus, ***Europe is*** facing one of the toughest tests since its establishment and we must use every possible instrument. The virus has not only an impact on health policy, but also on economic, social and foreign and security policy. Therefore at the ***EU*** Foreign Affairs Council on Monday I proposed to activate the solidarity clause under Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the ***European Union***. This could provide a common ceiling for several processes now underway to stem the virus. The objective would be that each member state could make available, in a coordinated manner, personnel and material that is currently not needed and sufficiently available".

Can you give us some examples?

"A ***Europe of*** solidarity must ensure that within the ***EU*** all available resources reach where they are most urgently needed. An example from Germany: in a very short space of time we set up a database in which clinics, on a voluntary basis, register their current availability of intensive care and pulmonary ventilation places. In the meantime, some 60-70% of the clinics have signed up. Why should this not be possible at ***European*** level? In the medium term, we must also consider whether to bring the production of strategic goods, such as protective medical devices, back to the ***EU*** from third countries. Here too, we need to proceed at ***European*** level to avoid overlaps.

Some also speak of a political signal for ***Europe, in the*** face of the aid actions initiated by China and Russia. Is there also a geo-political game at play behind the aid?

"Solidarity and international coordination are what we need in this emergency, so any help is good. Even the ***EU***, in the early stages of the spread of the coronavirus, provided aid to China and the people of Wuhan. This pandemic is a global challenge. We will not overcome it in an 'every man for himself' way. The motto must now be: 'One for all, all for one'. That is how we will succeed. But your question brings me to another important point that concerns me greatly: the spread of false information and conspiracy theories about the coronavirus. In Germany, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution is reporting a sharp increase in such misinformation from third countries. The intention is clearly to undermine public confidence in our crisis management. We must counter these ignoble and irresponsible attempts. Here, too, we need enhanced cooperation.

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Solidarity within the ***EU is*** an imperative.

We can also achieve this through the EIB, the ***EU*** budget and the EMF.

~

We welcomed

in a clinic

of Leipzig

the first two patients

in intensive care from Bergamo

~

Each Member State could make available, in a coordinated way, personnel

and material currently available

Who is

Foreign affairs

Heiko Maas, 53, has been Germany's Minister for Foreign Affairs since 14 March 2018. In the previous cabinet, he was federal minister for justice and consumer protection.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Politics (81%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (69%)

**Load-Date:** March 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***L'EU split on Eurobonds and aid No from Rome, postponement by two weeks; THEEUROPE***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SB-00000-00&context=)

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27 March 2020 Friday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 8

**Length:** 409 words

**Byline:** Ivo Caizzi

**Highlight:** Italy and Spain against the ***European*** Council draft "Disappointing and insufficient". Clash with Germany Merkel: we are against the issuing of ***EU*** bonds, yes to the MES

**Body**

BRUSSELS

The summit of 27 heads of state and government, in an overheated six-hour teleconference, failed to overcome all divisions on how to deal with the severe economic consequences of the coronavirus. In the end, the Belgian president of the ***EU*** Council, Charles Michel, announced the leaders' mandate to the ***Eurogroup*** finance ministers to "present us with proposals within two weeks", which "should take into account the unprecedented nature of the shock", so as to "reinforce our response with further inclusive actions".

With this postponement, the Prime Ministers of Italy and Spain, Giuseppe Conte and Pedro Sanchez, representatives of the two member states most affected by the Covid-19, have overcome the "insufficient" compromise supported by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other Nordic countries, self-described as "frugal" because of their limited willingness to spend on EU investments. Conte had called for "an adequate solution to the serious emergency that all countries are experiencing" within 10 days.

Michel tried to push through a "stimulus strategy similar to the Marshall Plan". Nine leaders - Conte, Sanchez, Frenchman Emmanuel Macron, Portuguese Antonio Costa, Greek Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Irishman Leo Varadkar, Belgian Sophie Wilmes, Slovenian Janez Jansa and Luxembourger Xavier Bettel - have also asked for "unprecedented resources" and "budgetary policy decisions of similar boldness", including "a common debt instrument" such as the Coronabonds, in addition to the measures already announced by the ECB, the ***EU*** Commission and the EIB. But Merkel, after launching a 750 billion Euro plan in Germany (which can be increased to over a thousand billion), has put the brakes on together with the leaders of Holland, Finland and Austria. For the "frugal", the interventions foreseen by the ECB, EIB and ***EU*** Commission would be enough, as well as limited loans from the State Rescue Fund (ESM) with stringent return conditions. The chancellor said she was "against Coronabonds" because "from the German point of view we prefer the ESM as an instrument, which was made for crises". Conte and Sanchez insisted on maxi stimuli, increased disbursements, more loans from the ESM with long-term repayments and Coronabonds. However, the 27 agreed to implement greater coordination on the health aspects of the emergency and to bring home the more than 300,000 ***Europeans*** stranded abroad.

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**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); ***European*** Union (93%); Public Debt (68%); Economic Policy (67%); Politics (63%)

**Industry:** Budgets (69%)

**Load-Date:** March 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Tajani: "We collaborate but Palazzo Chigi decides with us"; The interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SM-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

27 March 2020 Friday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 560 words

**Byline:** Paola Di Caro

**Highlight:** The role of the ***EU*** 'We need ***Eurobonds*** and liquidity injections If the ***EU doesn'***t have courage, it can't have a future'.

**Body**

ROME He has just voted electronically in the ***European*** Parliament - measures for emergency health funds and aid to airlines - and the key word to use in Brussels and Rome for Antonio Tajani, vice-president of Forza Italia, is just one: "Collaboration".

The government said yes to a control room in Parliament with the group leaders of all parties to tackle the crisis. Satisfied?

"This is a positive sign, but it is not enough. We are willing to make our contribution, but we need a political table with Conte and the leaders of the opposition to discuss major strategic decisions; then we ask for another place of discussion between Minister Gualtieri and the economic leaders of our parties, and finally a parliamentary coordination like the one planned. In addition, each measure should have two rapporteurs, one from the majority and one from the opposition.

It looks like a governissimo.

"No, it's something else. The country is going through a dramatic moment, the risks are very high on a health, economic and even social level if people end up not even having money to do their shopping. So, if you want our contribution, you really have to get involved. Not out of bon ton, but to help our country, which as Draghi said so well, needs large injections of liquidity to save the economy".

Are you not aiming for a Draghi government?

"We are now thinking only of the emergency, we are not speculating, we are not making plots or polemics, and the majority would do well to avoid them, as happened instead with the attacks on Gallera, who is doing his job on the front line."

What do you propose now?

"First of all we need a more incisive manoeuvre. We want to modify some points in the decree that provides for the first 25 billion, and we ask that in the next one there be not just 25 but 50: we will need to vote by 2 April on a new budget variance, and we are there. Then, another 25 billion will have to be injected after the summer, given that the tourism sector will be suffering greatly".

Without ***Europe*** will it be enough?

"Once again, the Council has lacked courage. Some northern countries are still tied to the budget balancing season, but here the world has changed. We are not dealing with a normal economic crisis, but with a pandemic that affects everyone. The old patterns no longer exist. Commission President von der Leyen and now even Lagarde seem to have understood the importance of ***Eurobonds*** and liquidity.

If not?

"Otherwise, and I say this as a ***pro-European***, we will not defeat the common enemy and ***Europe*** has no future. There is always one word: let's work together. It is the only way to save ourselves.

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The word

centre-right

After a period of controversy and mutual protests, the confrontation between the government and the centre-right forces took on a more constructive tone after Monday's meeting at Palazzo Chigi between Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and Matteo Salvini (Lega), Giorgia Meloni (FdI) and Antonio Tajani (FI). The oppositions presented a series of integrative and additional proposals to the measures launched by the government. The face-to-face meeting was considered a step forward, but both Salvini and Meloni asked the government for more courage in finding the resources to be allocated to the productive categories.

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[***The Prime Minister's challenge: theEurope is united or does not exist; strategies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SD-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

27 March 2020 Friday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** Monica Guerzoni

**Highlight:** Conte's strategy to get the most out of it 'Brussels has ten days to strike, Italy's finances are in order' Opposition Minister D'Incà's steering committee debuts today with the opposition

**Body**

ROME At the height of the most dramatic crisis since the post-war period, with the whole of Italy committed with all its might to fighting against "an invisible enemy that goes where it wants, like the wind", Giuseppe Conte had asked ***Europe*** for two things: unity and speed of action. And when the head of the government realised that he would get neither one nor the other - despite David Sassoli's appeal and Ursula von der Leyen's understanding - he matured the tear. "If the ***EU does*** not show solidarity, the ***European*** project is over".

Strengthened by the axis with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and the support of Emmanuel Macron, Conte shouted his "stop". A move that illustrates ***Europe***'s split between those in solidarity and those indifferent and also causes havoc internally, in the yellow-red majority.

Luigi Di Maio appeared on Tg1 and relaunched Palazzo Chigi's line: "Conte did the right thing, if you want the old tools we will do it alone". But the timing of the statement, with the ***European*** summit still in progress, infuriated the leaders of the Democratic Party, who leaked Nicola Zingaretti's "surprise". It was a question of method, because on the merits, even the Dems, starting with Roberto Gualtieri, shared Conte's hard line: Italy is at war and in order to get back on its feet it needs help for businesses, workers and families. The Prime Minister has read the hundreds of desperate appeals raining down on his Facebook page, people who have no money for groceries and fear "civil war". Conte is well aware that in order to avert unrest, billions are needed, lots of them and immediately. The decision to go to battle was taken in concert with Gualtieri, who was in constant contact with the prime minister during the dramatic hours of the summit, urging him to "negotiate vigorously to obtain the maximum" by breaking the wall of the northern countries, which refuse to share the price of the pandemic.

"We want ***European*** Recovery Bonds". Conte had said in the Senate, after putting another 25 billion on the table with a view to the "Cura Italia" decree in April. "This is about reacting with innovative financial instruments adapted to a war". But ***European*** leaders did not want to include even a reference to coronabonds. And so Conte gave the ultimatum: "Ten days to strike a blow". With pride, the premier claimed that our country has "the cards in order with public finance", because 2019 closed with a deficit/GDP ratio at 1.6 and not 2.2, as planned. Conte's reasoning is that this is not a matter of dealing with the isolated crisis of a country that has not done its homework, but of reacting to an "unpredictable and symmetrical shock of epochal magnitude", which affects the whole of ***Europe***: "You can keep the personalised protection mechanisms developed in the past, because Italy does not need them". What is needed is Mario Draghi's whatever-it-takes, whose strategy the Prime Minister fully supports.

Salvini and Renzi invoked the name of the former president of the ECB in an anti-Conte key, but the Democratic Party banished "fantasy-political scenarios" and shielded Conte, rejecting "any hypothesis of a government in power" and however espousing Draghi's theses: act immediately, inject liquidity into the system without worrying about the increase in public debt, because the recession will be deep and risks being ***Europe's*** grave.

Internally, interpreting the Quirinale's wishes, the Prime Minister has opened up to dialogue with the opposition with a view to April's economic decree. And he entrusted the Minister for Relations with Parliament, Federico D'Incà, with a concrete mandate to "elaborate a path of more meaningful confrontation". The steering committee with opposition group leaders will make its debut today at 10 a.m.

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null

The word

Last week, ***European*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen activated the safeguard clause of the Stability Pact. Due to the serious health and economic emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the rules governing Member States' budgetary policies, which date back to 1997, were suspended. These include a 3% deficit/GDP limit and debt below 60% of national wealth.

The choices

In ***Europe***

mechanisms are discussed

to be adopted

to defend

Countries

and the economies affected by the coronavirus emergency In fact, two fronts have emerged: one led by Germany, which is calling for greater rigour (and has even suggested using the EMF rules), and one comprising Italy, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

and France

which wants more elasticity on debt and accounts In recent days, at the invitation of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, eight countries had launched an appeal for the issuance of the

of "an instrument

of common debt', collecting

the no of Austria, Germany

and Holland Yesterday the ***European*** Council was held. Conte refused

to sign the draft and gave ***Europe*** ten days to find an agreed solution.

**Classification**

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**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Economic Growth (82%); Economic Policy (82%); Gross Domestic Product (76%); Public Debt (74%); ***European*** Union (65%)

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[***THE BET EUROPEAN AND ITALIAN PREMIER; The Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SG-00000-00&context=)

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27 March 2020 Friday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 10

**Length:** 453 words

**Highlight: Backing** Draghi's backing can become a foothold in the confrontation with the 'northern' ***Europe*** that clings to financial rigour

**Body**

Giuseppe Conte's rejection of ***Europe*** should be read as a refusal to accept aid calibrated to criteria that predate the coronavirus epidemic. Saying "no" to the draft prepared yesterday by the ***EU*** Council is a response to the desire to find completely new financial instruments to accompany the reconstruction of the ***European*** nations; and to cling to a solid prop to gain strength with the continental interlocutors and make the dialogue between majority and opposition more credible. And the prop is called Mario Draghi.

"We are in tune, it is a symmetrical crisis against which extraordinary action is needed," the premier explained yesterday, making his own the proposals of the former president of the ECB, entrusted to London's Financial Times . In order to legitimise the expansive policy that is deemed inevitable, the challenge to the approach of some ***European*** allies becomes unavoidable. Not least because the initial attempt to isolate Italy when the epidemic broke out did not go unnoticed. If the public perception that this is a strategy takes root, ***Euroscepticism*** will rise.

This is also why Conte is trying to relaunch the project. In the attitude that has emerged in recent days, the Italian government is guessing at the resistance of that "northern" ***Europe*** that recalcitrates in the face of the need for continental solidarity, and that clings to financial rigour to appease the strong internal resistance to the prospect of helping Mediterranean countries like Italy. Demanding an answer from ***Europe*** within ten days means betting on the possibility that in the end the line of Palazzo Chigi may prevail in order to avoid fractures.

It may turn out to be the only viable one. But it is a high-risk upside game. Against this backdrop, Draghi's backing may prove valuable for Italy and other nations calling for different financial instruments. The former ECB president's move is becoming a warning and a compass with new coordinates, to be offered to ***European*** institutions to reshape their strategies. It credits him as the director of a post-coronavirus reconstruction that goes beyond borders and internal logic.

By the way, it is not clear to what extent the cross-party applause for Draghi is born of sincere appreciation or is also mixed with fear of his future leadership. A new national unity in Italy needs time, small steps, and mutual recognition between parties yet to come. At the moment, the most dialogue can be registered at parliamentary level. And in any case Conte remains under fire from the right until he succeeds: in the challenge to Covid 19 and ***Europe***.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); National Debt (74%); Heads Of State + Government (61%)

**Industry:** Budgets (62%)

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[***The union that (does not) make strength***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0S1-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.28

**Length:** 751 words

**Byline:** Danilo Taino

**Body**

It is a powerful coup de grâce: as of Wednesday evening, the ***European*** Central Bank is back in the field with all its power, as never before. Under the banner of Primum Vivere in the face of the virus and its consequences. However, the momentum has been annihilated, at least for the moment, by the governments of ***Europe,*** who

in last night's video-summit, they were unable to find

a response to the situation, divided, mediocre, compromising.

Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of the country most affected by the pandemic, first did not accept the conclusions of the draft prepared by the summit and threatened to slam the door. Then, the compromise asking the finance ministers to find an agreement within 15 days. In the summit, Conte was supported by some leaders, in particular by Spain's Pedro Sánchez. However, the fact is that the crisis is dramatic but solidarity between countries is dangerously tenuous.

In fact, an extraordinary basis for intervention had been prepared for governments. The protagonists of monetary policy had taken the field with the current president of the ECB, Christine Lagarde, and the former president, Mario Draghi, as if they had coordinated their actions. Their intervention on Wednesday evening - separate - had the effect of a bombshell: in the emergency, it puts in the drawer the pillars that for decades have underpinned both the way monetary policy is conducted and the pivotal parameters of the ***eurozone***. In essence, it gives governments and ***Europe the*** space to prepare far-reaching economic intervention packages. Political leaders have been unable, at least for now, to seize the opportunity.

The ECB's decision, published on Wednesday evening and signed by Lagarde, is in fact a paradigm shift in the four-decade-old way of central banking. It removes a restriction that forced the ECB to buy no more than a third of an issue in its programme of securities intervention on the markets. It means that with the more than one trillion that the bank has mobilised in recent weeks, all to be used this year, it will be able to buy a country's securities with few limits. And to a large extent, these billions will be used in a "flexible" way, i.e. first where they are needed. Great firepower to be used in a creative way. For Italy, it is a question of at least 140-160 billion with which the ECB will purchase securities, mostly of the State.

The breakthrough lies in the fact that, in this way, the central bank essentially supports the budgetary policy of governments and implicitly sets aside the rule that has long been a totem, namely the separation of fiscal and monetary policy, between the Treasury and the central bank. This will arouse opposition. The governors of Germany and the Netherlands have already expressed their opposition to the abolition of the 33% limit. There will probably be appeals. This is where the article Draghi wrote for the Financial Times, also published on Wednesday evening, comes in.

Lagarde's predecessor assumes that we are facing a 'human tragedy of potentially biblical proportions', facing which governments will have to go into debt, as happened during wars, to prevent 'irreversible damage' being done to the economy. An exceptional situation, an exceptional response, outside the canons of peace. The rules on state deficits and debts must therefore be set aside. This is the political accommodation that accompanies the ECB's radical decisions. And it is the most authoritative push for ***European*** governments to act with the same sense of danger and urgency.

Yesterday, however, ***EU*** leaders were timid. They reiterated their willingness to do whatever it takes, but postponed the idea of pooling efforts and related debts to tackle the crisis. This displaced Conte, who also has divisions to consider in Rome. It is that in ***Europe the*** political complications are still stronger than the need to find a common strategy. A number of northern countries, led by the Netherlands, still do not want to create debt shared with others that they consider not entirely reliable. So once again everything is left on the shoulders of the ECB. For the ***EU, the*** passage is of formidable delicacy and scope: it involves political choices and an institutional transformation never before addressed. Conte asks to test them in ten days. Not much time. But the times, as Draghi wrote, are exceptional, and it is necessary to live up to them.

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**Subject:** Politics (94%); National Debt (86%); Economic Crisis (75%); Central Banks (71%); Public Debt (71%); Monetary Policy (70%); Economic Growth (69%); Economic Policy (64%); Heads Of State + Government (64%)

**Industry:** Budgets (69%)

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[***Pressing the Chancellor and the government rips up a commitment to seek an understanding; Background***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-P821-JDMV-K0SC-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

27 March 2020 Friday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 8

**Length:** 759 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Body**

If there is a material as precious as money in the great recession of Covid-19, it is time. But yesterday, the two ***Europeans*** facing each other over the reaction to be offered continued dramatically - and some of the protagonists, deliberately - to lose time. Neither side is now strong enough to impose its vision on the other, but both are strong enough to disqualify each other. In these conditions, any collective political response to the emergency today will be slower than it should be: but if the ***European*** paralysis continues, only the strongest countries and governments can gain ground, those able to support small and above all large enterprises in their territories with more resources and more efficiency.

Last night, in a teleconference with the other ***EU*** leaders, the protagonists were Giuseppe Conte and his Spanish colleague Pedro Sánchez. Both very decisive, driven by the urgency of contagions and economies that cannot resist paralysis for long. Both were supported by a French president who has never been as willing to distance himself from Germany as Emmanuel Macron was yesterday. Macron went so far as to say that the future of the Union depends on what these leaders decide. Yet, for now, they do not seem able to decide much.

Because in the end, opposing preferences emerged between two groups increasingly entrenched in their trenches. On the one hand, Germany, supported by the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and the Baltic countries, convinced that any government in difficulty due to the epidemic should follow the path designed for the crisis ten years ago: ask for a loan from the Mes bailout fund, perhaps "light" but with entry conditions and other subsequent ones. It matters little that the President of the ***European*** Central Bank Christine Lagarde herself (behind closed doors) has described this route as "suboptimal". Among other things, Mes credits have priority over those of normal investors, which would lose value, potentially putting the "saved" country increasingly at the mercy of the ***European*** mechanism itself.

On the other hand, yesterday too there were the leaders who signed a letter two days ago, calling for the first time for the ***eurozone*** to share some of the costs of a crisis for which no one is to blame. The prime ministers of Italy and Spain brought with them those of France, Belgium and Luxembourg (which repudiate Holland's hostility to mediation), Ireland (which abandons the northern front) and Slovenia (which divorces itself from Germany's central-eastern satellites). All united, with Lagarde, in asking that the ***euro*** give itself what any real currency has: at least a bit of a common budget.

Never before had Angela Merkel come under so much pressure. The Chancellor responded in her own style: instead of appearing in a video conference like her colleagues, she had a photo of herself in a blue jacket from several years ago projected. An avatar behind which the most powerful woman in ***Europe*** made herself invisible. The others only heard a voice mediated by translation, distant and very cautious.

Merkel is just doing what she does best: "Merkeln", the neologism to describe the inimitable art of stalling. She believes that Germany has all the advantage of a 750 billion package - guarantees, but also nationalisations of large companies - that other ***European*** countries cannot afford. Spain or Italy least of all. In the end it was decided that in a fortnight the ***euro'***s financial ministers will have to present "proposals", while the Commission and the ECB will work on a post-crisis plan.

Brussels is already thinking of defining health or employment protection projects with a German-style Kurzarbeit (solidarity work) model, perhaps by financing them jointly with ad hoc ***Eurobonds.*** Without proclamations, but with well-defined goals. This could open a window, because the stakes could not be higher: to decide whether the ***euro*** is a real currency or a marriage of interests that is forever precarious, hanging as it does on the munificence of the ECB alone.

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Never before has the Chancellor been under so much pressure, and as in the past she has preferred to stall.

US political and economic plan for the reconstruction of ***Europe*** at the end of the Second World War. At that time, the US mobilised more than USD 12 billion. The '***European Recovery*** Program' was announced in a speech by US Secretary of State George Marshall on 5 June 1947 at Harvard University.

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[***a step forward; We, the EUambiguities***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-923N-00000-00&context=)

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11 April 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** IDEAS & OPINIONS; Page 34

**Length:** 1089 words

**Byline:** Mario Monti

**Body**

The agreement reached at the ***Eurogroup,*** albeit with several ambiguities, is another step towards a ***European*** response to the coronavirus crisis, following the measures taken by the Commission and the ***European*** Central Bank. For Italy, which in my opinion did not come out of the negotiations badly, there is now the risk of a misuse of the result obtained.

Two mantras are used, one towards the government and the other towards ***Europe***. The government should beware of making use of what was obtained in the negotiations, the ESM (***European*** Stability Mechanism) on light terms. And don't think that narrow-minded ***Europe*** thinks it has done something for Italy and the other countries most affected; it has rejected the Coronabonds, so shut up, Italy will have to go it alone. These positions are insidiously widespread both in opposition parties, Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, and perhaps in the 5 Star Movement, the government's backbone. They could put Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in a difficult position ahead of the ***European*** Council on 23 April and Phase 2 in the fight against the pandemic.

A reminder of the facts should lead to greater clarity. The ESM is the evolution of the ***European*** Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). First the EFSF and then the ESM were prepared and decided at ***European*** level in 2010-2011 with Italy represented by Silvio Berlusconi in the ***European*** Council and Giulio Tremonti in Ecofin and the ***Eurogroup.*** That government was based on the Pdl-Lega alliance. Giorgia Meloni was a minister for the PDL, Matteo Salvini was an ***MEP*** for the League. The decision to establish the EMF was taken at the Ecofin level on 9-10 May 2010, with the specification that "its activation will be subject to strong conditionality, in the context of joint ***EU/IMF*** support, and will have terms and conditions similar to those of the IMF". At the level of the ***European*** Council on 25 March 2011, Heads of Government reiterated that "the granting of any required financial assistance under the mechanism will be subject to strict conditionality".

Greece's humiliating experience with the troika, created with the EFSF, was one of the reasons that led me - when in November 2011 I was called into government after the fall of Berlusconi, abandoned by the League, and having to respect the draconian conditions imposed by Trichet and Draghi in their letter of 5 August, accepted by the Berlusconi government so as not to lose the ECB's support for Italian bonds - to rule out asking for aid, which would have meant the troika descending on Rome, and to ask Parliament to approve a tough manoeuvre.

It will certainly not be me, therefore, who will recommend Conte to go under the Caudine's Forks of mechanisms prepared in ***Europe*** by a Berlusconi-Lega government, which then passed on to others the burden of avoiding Italy's default. The burden was very high, not least because the Trichet-Draghi letter, accepted by Berlusconi, called for Italy to reach a structural budget balance not in 2014, the target set for all ***eurozone*** countries, but, for us alone, as early as 2013. And this is what the markets expected by now, when our spread was about to touch 600 points!

But today, because of the coronavirus, the situation is completely different. The nature of the crisis is different. Italy is not looked upon as badly as it was then, 'culprit no. 2' after Greece, and if it had exploded it would also have sent the ***euro*** to pieces. Today, Italy is viewed with sympathy and solidarity, an attitude that also applies to the other countries most affected. For this reason, Mes credits to get those countries back on their feet and on the road would be disbursed on the sole condition that the funds are used for the pre-established purposes. Which, I must say, as an Italian, reassures me. On this aspect of light, non-macroeconomic conditionality, the Italian government should, in my opinion, have obtained even more explicit assurances. Conte should insist on this in view of the ***European*** Council, rather than waving the flag of the coronabonds again for the sake of domestic political illusions, when it is clear that, on this occasion, only a miracle could get them adopted.

Yes, ***Eurobonds***. As I mentioned here recently, I have been in favour of ***Eurobonds*** for many years. And I think that the cultural, political and ethical context has never been more favourable than this time to obtain agreement on an initial experiment. Unfortunately, the opportunism of a large part of Italian politics, precisely that which would like to prevent the government from making appropriate use of the Mes channel that is opening, has done everything possible - without realising it, I fear - to increase the reluctance of public opinion in other countries (not only Holland!) to the idea of sharing even a small part of Italy's public debt.

I list a few facts, which readers will remember. Out of modesty, I refrain from commenting on them, but let the readers try to put themselves in the shoes of, say, German savers and taxpayers, who learn the following facts: the yellow-green government asks, in the first draft of its programme, that the ECB forgive Italy 300 billion ***euros*** of public debt; leading politicians say "we don't give a damn about ***Europe***, about ***European*** rules", "let's make as much deficit as we want"; all parties compete to see who can promise the lowest taxes and all refuse to consider wealth taxes; they read the official estimates of tax evasion; they see that every year there are tax, social security, building and currency amnesties; they learn that Italy is unable to use the funds it already receives from the ***EU***; they hear that Beppe Grillo in the ***European*** Parliament has called on ***Europe*** not to finance Italy because in that way it finances the mafia.

But those same Italian politicians demand solidarity from ***Europe***. They get indignant if others hesitate a little to share debts with the Italians. I am convinced, with Enlightenment stubbornness, that one day Germany too will give the green light to ***Eurobonds***, just as I was convinced that we would get Merkel to accept that the ECB would stabilise the government bond market against speculation. This second thing happened in June 2012. But it would not have happened if the government, the parliament and the Italian people had not shown at that time that they knew how to be responsible. ***Eurobonds*** will come but, please, let's not do the exact opposite of what needs to be done to get them.

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[***Former French Prime Minister Valls: 'For Rome a good agreement the ECB now becomes crucial'; The interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9222-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 4

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** Stefano Montefiori

**Highlight: Draghi** 'Mario Draghi's philosophy has watered the central bank's nervous system'

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS

Manuel Valls, you were French Prime Minister, today you are a municipal councillor in Barcelona, you speak Italian thanks to your mother from Ticino. As a ***European,*** what do you think of the agreement reached in Brussels?

"This is a good thing. A failure of the negotiations would have been a disgrace, for ***Europe*** and for the finance ministers. The economic and social crisis caused by the epidemic could kill ***Europe***. In Italy, a great founding country, and also in Spain, where the ***pro-European*** sentiment has always been strong because it is linked to the passage from Franco's dictatorship to democracy'.

What do you consider to be the most important point of the agreement?

"While we wait to convince the Germans and the Dutch on ***Eurobonds***, the most important aspect today seems to me to be the role of the ECB, because it is called upon to play its role of a true central bank even more by putting around 1,000 billion on the table. Basically, it is a plural solidarity loan, the ECB is also buying public securities, so it is doing what the US Fed did. And if it is doing it today, it is because the philosophy of Mario Draghi, an Italian, has irrigated the nervous system of the ***European*** Central Bank. Then there are the other measures, for a shock force of 410 billion ***euros***. Italy and other countries should be able to get loans on favourable terms to boost the economy".

***Eurobonds*** are shelved for the time being.

"We will have to fight, and we will see how, for the pooling of debt, and in this regard ***Eurobonds*** or koruna-bonds will have their role to play. But in the meantime, the positive thing is that an agreement has been reached, and that the lack of solidarity suffered by Italy at the start of the crisis has been remedied. The cry of alarm raised by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the action of the French and Spanish governments have unblocked the situation. This is a good thing because otherwise ***Europe*** will destroy itself. We are living in an epoch-making moment, Italy and France have played a leading role in the last few hours. I don't want to dramatise, but ***Europe*** and democracy are at stake.

What do you think about the split between North and South?

"In reality, Thursday night's agreement would not have been possible without prior work between France and Germany. I always fear a debate placed in the terms of a North-South conflict, because I already experienced it when I was Prime Minister with Matteo Renzi. On every occasion we wanted to convince Angela Merkel. We have to convince, knowing that in every country there are different voices. The Spiegel editorial, for example, was very harsh on the German authorities. No one can look away any more. If the economy of rich northern Italy collapses, Germany will also pay the consequences. And then there are the non-economic issues: in 2015 I followed closely the crisis in Greece, which Germany was ready to let out of the ***euro***. But if these countries leave ***Europe***, the whole project falls apart."

What awaits us after the epidemic?

"A ***Europe*** that recreates value and brings back some of the production, today in China and North Africa, in sectors such as digital, electric batteries, medicines, energy, agriculture, aeronautics. Debt, deficits and inflation will increase, it is inevitable, we will deal with it later. Billions will have to be injected into public services and welfare. The coming months will show that the ***European Union***, the Commission and the ECB are indispensable to each of our countries.

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**Classification**

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**Load-Date:** April 11, 2020

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[***Centre-right on the attack on aid Salvini: resign if there is the Mes; TheEurope***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9220-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

11 April 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 4

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** Rita Querzé

**Highlight:** Berlusconi: compromise decision from summit but ***EU*** moves. Crimi: those who are railing today said yes to the bailout fund in 2012

**Body**

National unity in the name of fighting the coronavirus emergency foundered last night. Broken on the rocks of the ***European*** agreement on measures to deal with the economic emergency. On live TV, shortly before 8pm, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte pointed his finger at Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni, accusing them of spreading fake news about the ***Eurogroup*** agreement and the government's position. The reaction of the two leaders came in a close second, in time to be returned by the news. "Using state TV to tell falsehoods and hold a rally against Salvini and the oppositions is regime stuff, Soviet Union stuff," Salvini attacked. It is easy for the Prime Minister to bully the state TV," Meloni added, "I wonder if this is normal in a democracy. I also wonder what the President of the Republic thinks about it.

The subject of contention is the agreement reached on Thursday by the ***Eurogroup*** (the body that brings together the ***EU*** finance ministers) on measures to deal with the pandemic. In the field there are 540 billion in loans plus another 500 billion in the form of economic stimuli.

There are four instruments. A new credit line linked to the MES for investments in health (unconditional); 200 billion in aid from the EIB, the ***European*** Investment Bank; 100 billion for ***European*** unemployment insurance; and finally a fund financed by joint bonds to boost the economy. Absent, however, are the ***Eurobonds that*** Italy has been clamouring for.

For Forza Italia leader Silvio Berlusconi, what was reached was a watered-down compromise and the ***EU had*** shown itself to be "faded and weak" but "it is not true that it has done nothing". On the other hand, Meloni and Salvini's assessments were negative without ifs and buts. The latter branded the agreement as a "Caporetto" for Italian diplomacy and warned that "if someone carries out the Mes request we will ask for their resignation".

It is important for the debate to develop with clarity and without falsehoods," Conte began last night, in equally clear tones. The MES has existed since 2012. It was not activated last night as Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni declared. This government does not work under the cover of darkness. Italy does not need the MES and has not requested its activation also because it considers it inadequate for this emergency". We will fight until the very end for the introduction of ***Eurobonds,***" Conte continued. We will fight to the end for the introduction of Eurobonds," Conte continued. "I had asked the opposition to stand by us, these lies weaken Italy. Support for the prime minister came on Facebook from PD secretary Zingaretti. And from M5S political director Vito Crimi: "Those who are railing against the EMF today are the same ones who approved its creation in 2012".

The clash comes amid a ***Europe*** that welcomed the agreement with relief. ***EU*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen tweeted that the agreement was a "crucial result". For Angela Merkel, who had reiterated her rejection of ***Eurobonds the*** day before yesterday, the agreement is "a milestone for the ***European*** response to the pandemic". While ECB President Christine Lagarde reiterated that "there are no limits to our commitment to serve the ***eurozone***". Next round on 23 April. With the ***European*** Council convened yesterday by its president, Belgian Charles Michel.

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Aid from the EIB, the ***European*** Investment Bank. 100 billion is planned for ***European*** unemployment insurance.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Policy (65%)

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[***But in Brussels who won with the agreement?; Agreement at theEurogroup***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9225-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 6

**Length:** 297 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Body**

The game on ***EU*** instruments to deal with the crisis triggered by the coronavirus is not over. The ***Eurogroup*** was the first half. The second half will be played out on 23 April, when the heads of state and government will meet: it is the ***EU*** Council that will have to approve all the measures adopted on Thursday and fill the Recovery Fund with content, which has increased ***European*** interventions to one thousand billion lire.

So far, who has won and who has lost? The use of the ***European*** Stability Mechanism (ESM) was one of the most controversial points. It was decided to activate a new credit line - Pandemic credit line - accessible to all countries without conditionality (as requested by Rome) to support direct or indirect health care, treatment and prevention costs linked to Covid-19. If, on the other hand, the MES money is to be used for other purposes, the constraints already in place remain. Italy has already said that it will not use the EMF, but the fact that this possibility exists is positive. It is one more instrument available to the States," explains Carlo Altomonte, professor of ***European*** Economic Policy at Bocconi University. "We do not know what will happen in the autumn, what stress the countries will be subjected to. It is good to have the maximum firepower available". Another controversial point is the creation of a common debt, the ***Eurobonds,*** which the Nordic countries do not want. France and the southern countries have obtained a commitment to discuss the Recovery Fund, a temporary fund fed by the ***EU*** budget through innovative instruments. This is where the real game is played. Above a certain threshold of debt," explains Altomonte, "the extra point has increasingly recessive effects and therefore it must be avoided by "segregating" part of the debt on the ***EU*** institutions.

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**Industry:** Budgets (65%)

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[***the dialogue ended; political tensions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-921J-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.9

**Length:** 366 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Body**

The last semblance of dialogue has crumbled. This was to be expected. The exchange of accusations between Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the right evokes something more than a clash. ***Europe*** has become the real watershed. The majority is clinging to mediation with the ***Eurogroup*** to stem the economic consequences of the pandemic; the opposition is using it to tear with the ***EU***.

It uses the ghost of the Mes, the so-called Save-the-States Fund, to credit a defeated and humiliated government in negotiations with other nations. It is an instrumental offensive that overlooks the progress, albeit controversial, of a difficult and still unfinished mediation. But it finds an unintentional backing in the hostility of the M5S against the MES, pandered to by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte; and in the confusion felt in the executive after the impromptu proposal of a sort of Covid tax proposed by the leader of the PD group in the Chamber, Graziano Delrio. The idea, which was not agreed upon with the allies, was immediately rejected by the Greeks as a vague 'wealth tax', and by the Iv and the Prime Minister. The PD itself downgraded it to an 'autonomous proposal of the parliamentary group'. The collateral effect has been to overshadow both the aid that the ***European*** institutions are guaranteeing and the creation at Palazzo Chigi of a sort of 'war cabinet' to coordinate the phase that will come after the emergency. Lega and FdI leaders Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni are relaunching the image of an executive without a unified vision. At the same time, the ideological instincts of the grillini on the Tav, the high-speed railway, are once again being pointed out as a work to be cancelled in order to "recover resources". Against ***Europe,*** a "populist axis" is in danger of resurfacing that goes beyond and divides the majority. The Prime Minister's attempt to reconcile the anti-EU regression of the M5S with the ***pro-European*** positions of the PD is daily. Last night's press conference confirmed a latent nervousness, betrayed by Conte himself. And the opposition takes it to extremes, also to veil internal contrasts. FI's attitude is not that of Lega and FdI: a prejudicial catastrophism that threatens to isolate the country.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Policy (83%); Excise Tax (78%); Divorce + Dissolution (69%); Marriage Law (69%); Politics (68%)

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[***"Propaganda and mud against us A speech of a totalitarian regime'; THE OPPOSITION***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9224-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 6

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** Paola Di Caro

**Highlight:** The wrath of the leader of Fratelli d'Italia: unheard of Until two days ago I shared his positions on the ***EU***, but the Prime Minister is thinking of increasing his popularity

**Body**

rome Giorgia Meloni is furious: 'Something unprecedented has happened. It's a point of no return in our democracy. Something like this is out of this world, worthy of a totalitarian regime! Prime Minister Conte did not expect this: 'But where has it ever been seen that a Prime Minister calls a press conference on all channels to talk not about what he is doing and will do, but about me? And without any contradiction. The game is not equal, you can't make an institutional speech and, with the excuse, shovel mud on the opposition".

Conte says that you and Salvini are lying by saying that the Mes was established yesterday instead of in 2012, when he was not there but you were.

"I was neither in the government nor in the majority. Monti was there! What are you talking about? I said that the ***Eurogroup*** said yes to an instrument that the government said it was not considering. And that's the truth. Is Mes one of the financing lines envisaged in the document signed by Gualtieri or not? I demand to have my say with the same visibility as Conte.

Where?

"The RAI will give me the space to reply, live on TV, to an outrageous attack. I expect the President of the Republic to intervene on such a serious matter.

Conte is premier...

"And what does that mean? Since he rules by decree, does he think that Italy belongs to him, that the TV is his, that he can do whatever he wants? Managing a lot of power has gone to his head. Every rule has been broken.

Conte accuses you of making his work in ***Europe*** much more difficult.

"But I said all day yesterday (Thursday, ed.) that I shared his views, that he was right to say that if ***Europe*** had remained deaf we would have done it alone, that it was right to fight so that Italy would not be humiliated and that the Mes should not be activated. I was on his side.

I mean, did he misunderstand you?

"No, he is doing propaganda. He is taking advantage of it to increase his own popularity. I don't need that. I'm a patriot, I know how hard it is to fight for your country, and it wasn't me who paid Merkel a visit, it was him. I'm happy if we hold our heads high, that's what I'm asking for.

Conte has promised that he will not give in on the demand for a recovery fund financed by ***Eurobonds***. Either he succeeds or he fails: perhaps this is not propaganda, it is a challenge.

"We will see. If he wins it I'll be happy, because I love Italy. But to win this battle, was there any need for a stunt like this? I'm afraid it's just propaganda. As I've seen done too many times.

Bad weather...

"We made serious, concrete proposals, without partisan interests. They were all rejected. In Cura Italia there was an ideological closure towards us. Now we'll see what happens with the liquidity decree. The great fear is that it will turn out to be a bargain for the banks and much less so for borrowers, who will perhaps be used to pay off other previous loans granted by the banks...".

In all this, aren't you afraid that - with such a rigid position of Italy - ***Europe*** will fall apart? Your sovereignist colleagues, the Dutch in the forefront, are not helping either.

"In every big ***European*** family there are internal divisions right now, if that's the case the Dutch prime minister is in Brussels in the same party as Renzi. And on ***Europe***, this is the moment of truth. If we do not adopt instruments such as ***Eurobonds***, if we do not succeed in obtaining what we need, it means that ***Europe*** no longer exists. Do not give in to humiliating pacts. We want Conte to come to the Chamber and vote on a motion excluding recourse to the MES. We want facts, not words".

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The word

The ***European*** Stability Mechanism (ESM), or Saving Fund, is a ***European*** financial fund that aims to ensure the financial stability of the ***euro*** area. It has a budget of around ***EUR*** 650 billion, which is used to provide assistance to countries in difficulty.

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**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Policy (94%); Economic Growth (78%); National Debt (75%); Gross Domestic Product (69%); Politics (69%)

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[***Conte's show on live TV "The oppositions are telling falsehoods"; the premier***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9223-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 5

**Length:** 680 words

**Byline:** Monica Guerzoni

**Highlight:** Head of government: I will fight until the end on ***Eurobonds*** Lies weaken not me, but Italy in the ***EU*** How can you collaborate with someone who calls you a traitor?

**Body**

ROME

M

ai so stan co, never so angry. With his voice hoarse at times and his finger pointing at the camera, Giuseppe Conte challenged Matteo Salvini and this time Giorgia Meloni as well. He exposed them on live TV to the judgement of citizens exhausted by the emergency, and fiercely rejected criticism as 'falsehoods and lies that weaken us in the negotiations with ***Europe***'. And he shattered that national unity blessed by the auspices of the Quirinal, but which in the opinion of the Apulian professor unfortunately never existed. "How can you collaborate with an opposition that calls you a traitor to the state? - They called me a perjurer in the most dramatic moment since the post-war period. And then, to explain that so much fury is not due to a crisis of nerves: "They are blowing on the fire, they are stirring up a country where social tension and economic unease are already very high".

This is what prompted him to use, perhaps improperly, an institutional live broadcast to call the minority leaders 'irresponsible': 'I'll give you first and last names, Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni. This government does not work in the dark, but looks Italians in the eye. It is a lie. It has not signed any activation of the Mes, because it does not need it and considers it inadequate'. And again, to refute what he considers to be fake news: 'If the MES is a trap, whoever made it should take public responsibility. I wasn't there in 2012, while Giorgia Meloni was a minister...". Wrong, that year there was already the Monti government. And yet Conte calls it 'operation transparency'. As he did with Salvini in August, the Prime Minister ripped the veil and did not do so, he wanted to make it clear, to defend himself, but to defend Italy: 'I cannot let the figure of the Prime Minister be delegitimised. I had made an appeal to the oppositions, but what happened risks weakening not Giuseppe Conte or the government, but the whole of Italy, because it is a very difficult negotiation".

At stake is the image of the peninsula plagued by the virus and there is aid money that Rome cannot afford to see disappear. At the heart of the clash is once again the MES, a word that for the 5 Stars is an unpronounceable taboo and risks exploding the contradictions of the majority. Proof of this is the six-hour meeting/clash with the heads of delegations. There was a row over the reopenings, with renziana Teresa Bellanova wanting the factories open: "Do we want to save ourselves from the virus and starve to death?". But the most critical passages are on the negotiations with ***Europe***.

Roberto Gualtieri is convinced of having achieved an unthinkable result at the ***Eurogroup***, but the undersecretary Riccardo Fraccaro repeats the 5S niet: "No to the Mes, neither now nor ever". Really too much for Dario Franceschini, great mediator of the Democratic Party. They say that the head of the delegation has raised "badly" the tones, directly challenging Bonafede and indirectly Conte: "There is nothing more of the MES, only the name remains. There are 37 billion in unconditional aid at stake for health, 14.5 billion of which we put in. How can you say 'never ever'? It is an ideological position. The aftermath will be felt until the evening, so much so that both Palazzo Chigi and the MES deny a quarrel between Conte and Minister Gualtieri ("there is full harmony") and each party reads Conte's statements in its own way. For the M5S, the prime minister was clear, saying "we don't need the MES, Italy needs much more to recover". A hundred billion, perhaps 200, figures that only the ***Eurobonds*** invoked by Conte can guarantee: "It is the most appropriate instrument and we will conduct our battle to the end. Then came the sentence that the M5S leaders circled in red: "At the ***European*** Council I will forcefully explain that the EMF is a totally inadequate instrument. Yet even the Dems said they were satisfied, because the Prime Minister did not say "we will never use the MES" and indeed stressed that eight of Italy's allies "want a credit line linked to the MES without conditions".

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**Subject:** Politics (94%); Arrests (69%); Economic Policy (69%); Teaching + Teachers (69%); Riots (67%); Immigration (62%); Labor + Employment (61%); Labor Unions (61%)

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**End of Document**

[***"Make it quick" Doubts (and suspicions) among the allies; SEPTEMENTS***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9227-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 729 words

**Byline:** Francesco Verderami

**Body**

Something is wrong with the government, if the other

night after the ***Eurogroup*** meeting, Palazzo Chigi began calling the

those responsible: as if

the problem was holding the majority and not the

the resilience of the country.

There is a reason why last night, for the first time, Conte let his nervousness show, engaging in a clash with the opposition that erased what remained of the climate of "national unity", for which the head of state had worked. Those tones - not very appropriate for a prime minister called to manage a dramatic emergency - seemed to be a diversion to conceal the political difficulties in the coalition, to put a lid on the tensions with the allies who did not like the way the negotiations with ***Europe*** were handled.

But the dispute between "Mes and Bond" is only the tip of the iceberg of discontent in the majority. The real issue is that after eleven press conferences punctuated by announcements, no measure launched by the government is yet operational, so much so that two days ago the leader of the Democratic Party felt the urgency to address Conte with a desperate tweet, and as if he were an opposition exponent, he wrote "Hurry up", evoking the famous "Hurry up" that in 2011 anticipated the fall of Berlusconi. Behind the message is the mood of the Democratic Party, which, according to one of its influential leaders, feels "in the hole": "***Europe has*** made a fart about us; the citizens have not seen a single ***euro*** so far; social security funds such as the Inps are managed in a bankrupt way; and we wonder how long we can support this government".

Everything has a time in politics. After Easter, for example, the term of office of the heads of the seven major state-owned companies - ENI, ENEL, Leonardo, Poste, Terna, Enav and MPS - would expire. A month ago it was assumed that the appointments would be postponed by means of a paragraph to be included in the "Cura Italia" decree. Then the paragraph was skipped because the Treasury needs the dividends that those companies are about to distribute. Meanwhile, in the government, despite Covid-19, they have managed to divide themselves - in the words of a deputy minister - "between those who hope for a confrontation with the oppositions and those who aim at the 'all ours and now'". With the Grillini who, unable to touch the CEOs, are aiming at the chairmanships. With the Renzians calling for a representative in every company. And with the democrats who would like to modify to their advantage the power quotas established when the executive was born.

If Conte is pondering a last-minute postponement of the appointments in these hours, it is because it has been explained to him that - once the partition is over - the allies could give him the boot. Word must also have reached Palazzo Chigi of the sibylline way in which Renzi always closes discussions on the future: "Wait for May...". But it is not only the head of Iv who feels the need for a new government, given that in the PD and among the 5S the same reasoning can be heard. Only, no one sees the conditions for an imminent change, because - as a prominent grillino representative whispers - "Conte's real life insurance is the populists. For now."

He surrounds himself with commissions and commissioners as if they were frisian horses, announces the arrival of a manager like Colao for 'phase two' of the emergency and includes him in a mega technical-scientific committee, while the entrepreneurs suggested a streamlined task force of "no more than five people, one per sector". On the other hand, the polls ("for now" underline the allies) make him untouchable, so no one ("for now" warn the opponents) intends to go to the showdown. But those who see him on an almost daily basis describe his mood swings: "One day he's strong in his position, the next day he's worried to excess. Perhaps he feels that the crossroads are approaching.

In the end, Conte has his reasons: it is complicated to manage an unprecedented crisis while having to deal with all the Rutte of ***Europe***, the Roman bureaucracy, the mayors, the governors, Salvini and Meloni at the same time. But if the executive comes to Parliament with a decree drafted twenty days before, forgetting the stamp of the General Accounting Office and even removing the text of the measure, it means that there is really something wrong with the government and we must 'hurry up'. Or it will be too late.

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[***Sugar: I choose the films and my son finds them on the web; i o I stay at home***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3FW1-F13X-9236-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** SHOWS; Page 25

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Andrea Laffranchi

**Highlight:** The singer-songwriter in seclusion with his family on the Lunisiana Soul estate in Pontremoli: 'I'm lucky because I live surrounded by nature'.

**Body**

"As the poet said, I watch the river flow and the grass grow". The poet doesn't exist, "it's a figure of speech", laughs Zucchero. But he does watch the river and the grass. His coronavirus isolation is on the Lunisiana Soul estate in Pontremoli. An old converted mill surrounded by greenery, animals, a vegetable garden and crops.

How is he doing?

"Right in these days I was scheduled to debut my world tour. The first date was supposed to be on 3 April in Auckland, New Zealand. The idea of being forced to be stuck here makes me a bit melancholic. I really wanted to go and play live. I guess it's not going to happen for a while and that's distressing.

How do you fight it?

"I'm lucky because I live surrounded by nature and not confined to a flat: I walk around, look at the plants and animals on the farm, but I miss the little things. I walk, I walk around, I look at plants and farm animals, but I miss the little things: going to the bar for a coffee, living life in the square, seeing friends, chatting, discussing, talking. In short, the simple things that warm you up.

Not using shopping as an excuse to go out?

"No. But not out of fear. I don't feel the need at such a time."

Is he with his family?

"There are three of us: my wife Francesca, my son Blue and me. My two daughters, Irene and Alice, live 20 kilometres away. I want to see them, but you have to follow the rules. Don't joke. "Better to be afraid than to touch them," my father used to say. I think that says it all today. But there must be hope, as I sing in my last song "La canzone che se va va" (The song that goes away), a song that endures beyond distances, which I hope will soon come together again".

You have a house and a recording studio full of tiny papers filled with notes: are you taking the opportunity to tidy up?

"Yes and no. I pick them up and try to put them away, but then I make more. My son is studying in the library at home and has moved the ones that were there, there's also the cat who makes a mess by jumping on the table and the parrot Pipitù, the latest arrival, who flies free around the rooms, it doesn't help...".

How did your son take it?

"With a sense of responsibility. He proved to be intelligent. He is someone who likes to be in a pack, to go out every night with company.... He has stopped and is not grumbling. He has taken it upon himself to bring harmony into the house: he makes jokes, he jokes...".

What do you do together?

"I exploit his technological skills for entertainment moments. I would have stayed with Rai1 Rai2 and Rai3... he knows all the platforms. I choose old films to watch again, he finds them and we watch them together. And then I get advice from him on new series".

What are you looking at?

"Tarantino's films of which I am a fan. Bertolucci's Novecento, which talks about my and our roots. And then a new series, Yellowstone, with Kevin Costner: those landscapes make me feel at home".

What about the music?

"I feel that more ideas are coming in for the lyrics than for the music. Beyond the tragic nature of the moment, there's this sense of the unexpected that makes everything seem unreal, almost like a nightmare. A bat that stopped the world... I hope this will help slow down our race, return to a healthier and quieter life, reduce the greed for power. Where do we run? The level will fix us all.

His mobile phone keeps a diary with the contacts of international stars. Have you heard from anyone?.

"I've exchanged a few messages with Michael Stipe after he released that beautiful track 'Stay Safe', take care. And then I'm in touch with Bono about something new: he's working on the music and I'm working on the lyrics".

Where does he write?

"Occasionally in the bus, which has been converted into a studio where I take a nap. More often in the turret of the House of Blues, my home studio, from which I have rediscovered a view of the valley that inspires me".

Readings?

"After my friends at Mickey Mouse turned me into a comic strip character by papering me with a sweet caricature, I went back to my old albums. My favourite character is still Scrooge McDuck: not for his wealth, let alone his avarice, but for his irony and sarcasm. And then, being the good vintage car collector that I am, I also pulled out piles of La Manovella that I had accumulated during the months of touring and working on the album".

You are always caustic with the world of politics. How is our ruling class behaving?

"I think that something like this would have been very difficult for anyone in government. Regardless of colours and political opinions, I don't think Conte and his ministers are working badly. The disappointment comes from ***Europe***. I did not expect such a hostile attitude from the Netherlands. I think that, together with Germany, they should understand that in this situation ***Eurobonds*** are necessary.

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**Industry:** Entertainment + Arts (70%)

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**End of Document**

[***Funds EU fundsbecause the case of Italy is different from that of Greece.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS1-P2C1-JDMV-K3BP-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 18

**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** Sergio Romano

**Highlight:** Original sin The Athens government decided to falsify its accounts in order to be welcomed into the ***euro*** family

**Body**

The ***European*** Stability Mechanism, also known as the 'Save States Fund', has become the black beast of a part of the Italian political class. Its role, at the time of the Greek crisis, between 2010 and 2o15, is often associated with that of the Troika, composed of three institutions (the International Monetary Fund, the ***European Union*** and the ***European*** Central Bank) that were bailing out Greece with generous funding and were in charge of overseeing its fiscal consolidation. It is certainly true that there was a circumstance in which the Troika made the granting of international aid conditional on the reduction of minimum wages in Greece by 22%. It was an interference in the internal affairs of the country. But Greek products on the international markets would have been cheaper and therefore more competitive; and on the other hand there would not have been such a demand if Greece had not at that moment lost a good part of its financial credibility. Moody's and Standard and Poor's were cutting its rating levels, and another agency, Fitch, argued that Greece, under those conditions, would be forced out of the ***euro*** and that its exit would jeopardise the existence of the single currency.

No one then had forgotten that Greece had falsified its balance sheets in order to be accepted into the ***euro*** family. The world learned this when a new prime minister, George Papandreou, revealed it to his countrymen and the world at the beginning of his term of office. He had won the elections at the end of 2009 and wanted to distance himself from the responsibilities of his predecessors. The ***European Union***, the International Monetary Fund and the ***European*** Central Bank were tough, but what was at stake, along with the fate of Greece, was that of ***Europe*** and its currency. And ultimately

analysis it was the creditors' money (300 billion) that saved Greece from bankruptcy.

Any comparison of the Greek crisis with the Italian case would be absurd, and the battle of these days against the Mes is not a problem of ***European*** finance. It is just an unpleasant chapter in the Italian political novel. As Wolfgang Münchau suggested in the Financial Times of 2 April, elements in the government are trying to regain their lost weight in the coalition, after their declining support in the country, by exploiting the growing ***Euroscepticism*** in Italian society. Two opposition parties, Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, are more or less in the same position. Such a policy is particularly unjustifiable at a time when the Saving Fund can provide its funding without the conditions that were demanded of Greece at a time when the falsification of its balance sheets undermined its financial credibility and justified the prudence of its creditors.

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[***Conte: "We will overcome the difficulties if we know how to make more sacrifices" And on aid EU aid wants only one vote; The backstage***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS1-P2C1-JDMV-K39R-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 April 2020 Sunday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 2

**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** Marco Galluzzo

**Body**

ROME

It will be "a speech of truth" that Giuseppe Conte will give to Italian citizens today or tomorrow, not only on phase 2 of the health emergency, but also on what awaits us in the coming months, after the Covid-19 "black swan" hit our country so hard.

Together with the launch of the new decree of the Prime Minister, which will be very articulate, so much so as to contain a "long-term programme", with the various phases of the reopening of the economic and social life of the country, Conte in fact intends to make a sort of appeal to the nation, to say that in the medium and long term "there will be sacrifices, hard and difficult times ahead", because it will not be easy to make up for the damage done by the virus, nor to completely put back on its feet an economy that was still struggling to recover from the crises of 2008 and 2011.

A speech of clarity, together with details of the Italians' newfound rights to travel, of the possible reopenings even if strictly monitored, on a daily basis, region by region, in which the Prime Minister will point out the real situation of the country, in which "unfortunately no one can expect windfall money, given the very high public debt we have to deal with".

In short, tonight or tomorrow Conte will address the Italians on the one hand with a message of hope, indicating the dates of the next reopenings, the phase of new rules and new recommendations, but without this being a "free-for-all" and without above all giving the idea that a return to normality is close or within reach: "It is a period and an emergency that we will all overcome if we are able to make sacrifices and in this way defeat the epidemic step by step".

At Palazzo Chigi, in agreement with the majority parties, social partners, local authorities and all those involved in the emergency, the reopening plan is being finalised and could come into force on 4 May. With the new decree, we will also announce a recovery programme for the remaining economic activities," explained the Prime Minister. "We hope to offer all economic operators a clear time horizon, so that they will have all the necessary information in advance and be able to take the necessary precautions in time to start up again in conditions of maximum security.

The plan will contain a philosophy of absolute caution in the face of the possible reappearance of outbreaks of contagion, and will therefore be accompanied by very stringent monitoring tools, structured by region and aligned according to the hospital parameters of each territory: places available in intensive care, capacity for receiving new contagions, hospital and safety protocols. In short, a plan, in some ways, that is accordion-like, ready to restrict the new-found freedoms again if the need arises.

But Conte's message will also contain a fund of hope for the future, also linked to ***European*** measures: on the Recovery Fund, "a victory for us too that until a few weeks ago was completely unimaginable," and which together with the other measures prepared by the European ***Union***, from ***European*** Investment Bank funding to the Sure programme guarantees for the redundancy fund and the EMF credit line, constitutes a "booty" that can largely exceed 200 billion ***euro***, an amount of resources that are already largely available this year and which will contribute decisively to reconstruction. Including the MES, which at this point, given the openness of Luigi Di Maio, and the absence of strict conditionality as in the past, could also be activated by Italy.

On this point Conte would like to ask Parliament for an overall vote on all four ***EU*** aid instruments, so as to overcome the residual resistance of the Five Star Movement on the ***European*** Stability Mechanism and to have a simplified green light to be able to interact with the authorities in Brussels. Conte remains convinced that all this cannot be achieved without a decisive change in the functioning of our public administration, which is why the 150 billion decree to be approved by the end of the month could include somewhat disruptive rules on simplifying investments and contracts, with exceptional derogations to codes and laws in force.

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[***Liberalism goodbye More state and easy money needed; The interview The English post-capitalist theorist Paul Mason proposes printing money as a bridge to a new model***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS1-P2C1-JDMV-K3HC-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 April 2020 Sunday

READING Edition

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**Section:** READING; Pages 6.7.8.9

**Length:** 1432 words

**Byline:** danilo taino

**Body**

Rather than being the origin of epoch-making turning points, pandemics can be the triggers, the definitive pushes for changes already in progress, the accelerators of structural upheavals. This was the case with the Black Death in the 14th century. Or they can be concomitant causes of ruptures in the existing economic and political orders. As, to a certain extent, was the Spanish plague after the First World War. In any case, pandemics open the door to radical ideas, energizing thinkers who had already previously believed that incisive changes were necessary.

Paul Mason, 60, is a British commentator who has directed programmes on both economics and culture for the BBC's Newsnight and Channel 4 News . In Italy he has published two books with Il Saggiatore: Postcapitalismo (2016) and Il futuro migliore (2019). Radical in his analysis, indeed, Mason is. And he is optimistic: he thinks this is an opportunity for a great transformation.

First of all, what is your reading of the situation we are in?

"Let's start by recognising that this crisis is different from any other that has occurred in the industrial era. It is characterised by a fall in both demand and supply. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) predicts a fall in international trade of up to 32% this year. After the crisis of 2008, the interventions of central banks and states have been enormous and decisive: 30 billion dollars of quantitative easing as regards monetary policy and the accumulation of up to 73 trillion in the stock of public debt in the world. Central bankers like Mario Draghi at the ECB and Mark Carney at the Bank of England have in fact built a bridge to a new model of capitalism. This is where we are now.

Yes, here, with money printed in quantities and with unprecedented debts.

"There can only be a more or less V-shaped economic recovery if we avoid financial contagion, otherwise we will have a prolonged recession. And if we avoid a return to austerity policies as after the ***European*** debt crisis. In this case, the fate of some of us would be the same as that experienced by Greece. We must avoid taking 18 or 24 months to recover: that would be the destruction of the world economy. Avoiding this catastrophe depends on the political choices that are made".

Isn't what is being done today enough?

"The fiscal stimulus decided so far is not enough. We started talking about helicopter money and today this is an opportunity. Central banks have to start Qe on steroids, i.e. enhanced quantitative easing, buying securities on the markets basically without limits. The idea is to create a bridge to the future, i.e. for central banks to buy debt issued by states for a generation. This would buy breathing space and avoid a new phase of austerity in a couple of years'.

So the transformation you have in mind consists of governments spending and borrowing from central banks, which print money to meet the needs of states.

"There is a third necessary pillar, the taking over of certain sectors of the economy by states. It's a wartime reflex: we order production reconversions. At Siemens, for example, we tell them to make medical respirators. Medical production should be put under government control now. Railways should be nationalised because they are insolvent. So should airlines. We need a commissioner or, if you prefer, a production czar. For example, to intervene in food distribution, which will be affected by the breaking of production chains. To avoid panic.

Do you propose a plan economy? It has already failed a lot in history.

"No, I don't believe in a command economy. It's about beating the ideological opposition of the ruling classes to state intervention. I see instead a system of community property, cooperatives, municipalities, I see ethical banks, credit unions."

Major transformations.

"The big news now is that our economies are not resilient. 2008 broke globalisation and made it clear that the neoliberal model had failed. Now everything is challenged, not by the virus, but by the weakness of the economic model and the multilateral system. We cannot forget Hobbes and Machiavelli: the state is a contract because citizens fear chaos; if the state fails to protect people, we have a serious problem. If the state fails to protect people, we have a serious problem. Catholics perhaps accept this a little more; Protestants, who are individualists, less so: from this point of view, the United States is Protestantism to the nth power".

Will a new idea of socialism emerge from this pandemic, then?

"More simply, I think the crisis is a perfect opportunity to reset the economy and society, as Keynes did. The economy has to be different, we have to give it a new shape. But I avoid talking about socialism, we don't need a long period of statism. I am anti-capitalist because I think that, like everything, capitalism has a beginning and an end. We have to move towards a more just, less unequal post-capitalism. Today there is an analogy with the 14th century, when the bubonic plague transformed psychology and helped pave the way for the Renaissance. Even now there is a transition on the agenda: in the past I thought it would be climate change that would trigger the transformation, but now I see the opportunity coming from the pandemic.

A total transformation?

"Right now I am looking for a short-term model for capitalism. A sustainable post-capitalism that allows us to pick up the pieces of what is broken. And the tools to do that are only available to the state, as I said: borrowing, creating money, having an industrial strategy."

Who leads this change? We need to build a consensus for such a radical project.

"It seems to me that this is the moment when people who have resisted the measures taken after 2008 start to consider radical solutions. Even parts of the elites. For example, the 'Financial Times' is much more open than it used to be to traditionally social democratic positions. The problem is: once this system is broken, who replaces it? Trump? Salvini? In my opinion an alliance between elites and the masses must replace it, as Hannah Arendt would say. I have been associated with Jeremy Corbyn, but he has not understood that we need to conquer the centre. We are in a period similar to the Popular Fronts of the 1930s: we need the centre and the left to stand together, as Togliatti thought in 1935-36, to defend and win back democracy."

On a geopolitical level, what developments do you see?

"Not only is the US led by an isolationist, but isolationist was also Trump's predecessor, Obama, and so would be his possible successor, Biden. America is self-sufficient: sure, it will protect Saudi Arabia, close every door to Iran, but basically it is abandoning its global role. Is there another global leader? No, China is not a global power. So I imagine a multipolar world. And here there is ***Europe's*** role to protect. We cannot be a global power, Ursula von der Leyen is not Roosevelt. But we can be a regional power. A progressive centre and left can create a ***European*** model. But the ***EU*** must make clear and decisive choices: the virus cannot be kicked down the escarpment like a tin can, ***Europe*** must overcome its dysfunctions. For example, it must mutualise solidarity. For example, I would like Germany, France and Italy to stop tolerating dictators like the Hungarian one: they should tell those countries that this is the ***EU***, but if they want Putin they can go".

Do you see changes in the habits of citizens and consumers?

"I have been arguing for a decade that digital technology will reshape the way we live, that it will make us work less and give us the opportunity to engage more with culture. And in this crisis there are aspects that illustrate how redesign can be, how it can change human life. For example, I happen to barter; and I must say that it makes me feel good. In London, where I live, the polluted air is gone and the birds are back, even birds of prey.

Danilo Taino

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PAUL MASON

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[***"In the decree of the end of the month, 10 billion in non-refundable funds for small entrepreneurs"; Vice-Minister Castelli (Mef)***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS1-P2C1-JDMV-K3BJ-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 16.17

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** Enrico Marro

**Body**

I

he government will ask Parliament for a further 55 billion euro deficit. It is also preparing a 155 billion euro manoeuvre on the net balance to be financed.

Unprecedented numbers.

"Covid-19 is also unprecedented. We absolutely need to continue supporting families, businesses and workers," says Laura Castelli (M5S), deputy minister for the Economy.

When will the decree-law be approved?

"I believe at the end of next week. We will take into account the input of the trade associations and the task force led by Vittorio Colao. We will give continuity to the measures of the Cura Italia decree that lasted one month, for at least another two months. And we will introduce new ones, in particular to help companies bear the costs of lockdown and reopening. We are thinking only of restructuring and sanitation.

Will there be non-refundable grants?

"Also. We are working with the Minister of Development, Stefano Patuanelli, to give relief to small businesses that have suffered a major drop in turnover. There will be at least 10 billion in aid.

Businesses are asking to be able to freely offset tax debts against claims on the public administration.

"This is an important issue. Unfortunately, we are suffering from the mistakes of the policy of past years. It is not possible that there are still citizens who are owed money by the State and have to pay taxes. We will intervene in two ways: we will raise the 700,000 ***euro*** ceiling for offsets and we will allocate 12 billion euro to pay the commercial debts of the public administration."

The categories also ask for help with rents and bills.

"On rents there will be a wider measure of 60% tax credit. And on utility bills there will be no additional charges, i.e. the fixed charges. Companies that are working will only pay for consumption."

Will the redundancy fund be extended?

"It will be funded for a maximum of nine more weeks".

Will the bonus for the self-employed, professionals and co.co.co. increase from 600 to 800 ***euros***?

"We will raise the compensation and provide it for the period of the emergency."

Will there also be an emergency income of 5-600 ***euro*** for one million families with Isee up to 15,000 ***euro,*** as proposed by the president of the Inps, Pasquale Tridico, in an interview with Corriere?

"I agree with what Tridico said. But not only me. The entire majority and also the opposition wants to intervene because in the coming months and until the end of the year poverty will grow consistently. Thanks to the 5 Stars, we have the Citizenship Income, which was much maligned at the beginning, but which is now seeing an increase in applications. However, we need to do more and ensure support for families in need who have no support at all.

Will emergency income include domestic helpers and carers?

"No, there will be an ad hoc measure for them. In the same way we will extend the Naspi, to support the income of those who lose their jobs".

Taking measures is not enough if they do not reach their destination. Entrepreneurs complain about access to liquidity.

"Anomalies have emerged, it is true. We are establishing responsibility, to get these measures up and running quickly. We put the state guarantee in place precisely to avoid delays. But I also receive many positive reports, with banks helping their customers. Abi is committed to improving practices and I believe that a lot depends on the work of individual branch managers".

In ***Europe,*** the agreement has not yet been closed. In the meantime, there is the MES, which could give Italy 37 billion in loans for healthcare. Why does the M5S continue to say no?

"We fully agree with the position of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. We must wait for the details of the measures, but ***Europe*** must understand that with the Covid-19 everything changes. The old dogmas must fall, we need a lot of resources and above all we need them now. The ***European*** Council took a step forward, but it is not enough.

Are we at risk of patrimonialisation?

"This government doesn't like it. It is the wrong recipe, especially in a context of recession".

Will there be ad hoc bonds to intercept household savings?

"One can think of issuing very long-term safe securities that can attract citizens looking for stable investments."

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[***"a sovereign wealth fund to help companies" with citizens' money; Economy Politics the interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-7081-F13X-91JH-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

11 May 2020 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 14

**Length:** 1198 words

**Byline:** Massimo Gaggi

**Highlight:** The proposal by Stefano Aversa, president of AlixPartners: follow the example of Norway and Singapore and set up a company to invest in healthy medium-sized enterprises, with liquidity from private individuals and public incentives. "It would be enough to collect 1% of the financial wealth of Italians, on a voluntary basis, to set in motion an instrument that would inject one hundred billion into the production system".

**Body**

Stefano Aversa is president for ***Europe***, Middle East and Africa of AlixPartners, one of the largest international companies specialising in corporate restructuring and relaunching, whose contribution is often requested also by states committed to putting their own balance sheets in order. So far," says Aversa about Italy, "the right measures have been taken to guarantee liquidity to the system and protect workers when the country came to a standstill. Now that the production machine is starting up again, however, much more is needed: we need to invest in the country's future, starting with structural measures, which are necessary to avoid a multiplication of company crises that would be detrimental to the value of our companies, to employment and also to the resilience of the banking system". According to Aversa, Italian companies, which were already fragile before the coronavirus crisis because they were often small, undercapitalised and with low profits, "need risk capital, not additional loans: this is a very serious problem, and I think the political system is underestimating it".

Aversa is convinced that the current, very serious pandemic crisis offers a unique opportunity to initiate structural changes. But, he adds, it also requires 'the courage shown by the Italians after the Second World War and the kind of farsightedness that Luigi Einaudi had then'.

Back then, a shattered country rolled up its sleeves. Today there is no rubble, at least not physical rubble. Where to start again?

"From the data. This year we will lose 9-12% of GDP and in 2021 the recovery may be rapid but only partial, with possible fallout. At AlixPartners we have calculated that this, for Italian companies, could mean a reduction in capital of 100-150 billion ***euros***. We are talking about an average 20%, but in some sectors the impact will be greater. It will also be greater for the 90,000 medium-sized Italian companies that are extremely dynamic and vital, but suffer from chronic undercapitalisation. They absolutely must be helped now that, with the resumption of business, they will need a lot of working capital and to resume investing. Otherwise, we risk a chain crisis with serious consequences for employment, but also for the stability of the financial system".

How can such a domino effect be avoided?

"Systemic interventions will be needed, including financial ones, on four fronts: a public investment plan in physical and digital infrastructure to rebuild a more efficient and sustainable economy. Then some targeted interventions to support the key industrial sectors and also for the banks, which will have to be recapitalised with interventions like those of the American Tarp 12 years ago: because the losses in turnover and profitability of companies will inevitably turn into non-performing loans for the banks. Thirdly, a public holding company for industrial holdings will have to be created to manage the groups in critical conditions".

A new Iri? Isn't something similar already emerging in the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti?

"The government and the political system will decide the location. The important thing is that it should be a holding company entrusted to professional managers of recognised competence and independence who will restore and put these companies back on the market, as in the spirit of the original IRI".

And the fourth point?

"It is the most important, the most urgent: the reactivation of vital companies that have products and markets, but risk asphyxiation due to this prolonged paralysis and a foreseeably slow recovery, which takes away their already scarce financial resources. But while in the other three areas the bulk of the effort will have to be made by the State, here it is possible to mobilise mainly private resources through the launch of an Italian sovereign fund. A fund similar to those created by other countries, from Singapore to Norway, but with strong participation of citizens, as well as financial institutions and, only as a last resort, the State. We have calculated that it would be enough to collect 1% of the financial wealth of Italians to set in motion a fund which, fed at that point by contributions of the same size from foreign institutional investors - such as Canadian pension funds or Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds - could invest around a hundred billion in the capital of Italian companies".

Like Iri, the call by the Italians for direct investment in place of the state risks having a bitter taste for citizens. In this case, the taste of a disguised patrimonial asset.

"It would not be a wealth tax, but an investment on a voluntary basis to recapitalise healthy and profitable medium-sized Italian companies, which only have a problem of adjusting their own resources. This crisis offers the opportunity to build a model of extended capitalism: a sort of call to arms for all of us who, at a crucial time for the country, can choose whether and how much to contribute to Italy's economic revival. By becoming shareholders in its most productive part and not just taxpayers who support the welfare state and public services with their taxes. Obviously, this sovereign wealth fund should have governance and management aligned with the best standards of international markets. In our vision it could be facilitated by the public sector with tax incentives, but without further debt contributions from the state, which is already called upon to intervene massively in other areas".

In Italy, the main topic of discussion is ***European*** solidarity, contributions to the southern countries, Italy and Spain, which have been most affected by the pandemic. And it seems that the ***EU*** institutions are also beginning to discuss possible recapitalisation.

"The ***European*** contribution will be important, but I believe it will focus mainly on large infrastructure areas and on the Green Deal. However, it will be a long and complex process, as demonstrated by the recent intervention of the German Constitutional Court on the ECB. Having an intervention ready to relaunch the production system, conceived and financed at home, would greatly strengthen Italy's position at the negotiating table. This is also the right time to implement a series of public industrial policy measures, given that the Covid-19 tsunami is pushing the EU authorities to relax, at least temporarily, the constraints on state aid.

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Having an in-house designed and financed revitalisation intervention ready would help a lot at the ***EU*** negotiating table.

Who is

Stefano Aversa is president of AlixPartners for the Emea (***Europe***, Middle East and Africa) region.

and global vice-president. Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Robotics from Florence, Master's degree from Turin

in Business administration, starts in Magneti Marelli

and climbed the career ladder at At Kearney, where he became global head of Automotive and Aerospace. He has been

long-time consultant

of Sergio Marchionne,

former ceo of Fca. Expert in industrial restructuring, speaker

at the World Economic Forum in Davos, is a member of the Adam Smith Society, the Aspen Institute and a consultant at Bocconi.

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[***ECB the long shadow of the German ruling; Economy Politics after karlsruhe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-7081-F13X-91JJ-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 15

**Length:** 708 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight:** May be counterproductive at a time when even more flexibility is needed, says Joachim Fels (Pimco)

**Body**

German-born Joachim Fels is managing director and global economic advisor at Pimco, one of the world's largest asset managers, where he also sits on the investment committee. In his role, he expresses a veiled but obvious concern about how the ***eurozone*** is responding to the recession triggered by the pandemic.

What do you think of the German Constitutional Court's ruling on the ***European*** Central Bank?

"There is good news in the ruling because the Court declared that the ECB's securities purchase programme is not monetary financing. The ECB Governing Council or the Bundesbank will have to present a more detailed cost-benefit analysis of their quantitative easing programme. I do not think they will have any difficulty in doing so and I expect that the purchase programme can continue as it is, with the participation of the Bundesbank. The German court has not ruled against the purchase programme."

You do not see any unfavourable aspects in this judgment?

"There are. It's another factor that weakens the ECB's position and makes it a bit more difficult for it to be very determined in its monetary policy."

The ruling concerns the Public Sector Purchase Programme (Pspp) launched in previous years. Do you think that with its concerns about proportionality it could also have an impact on the most recent QE plan, the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (Pepp)?

"The ruling is not about Pepp, but it certainly makes it a little more difficult to unbalance ECB purchases towards Italy or other countries. Now several other appeals against the new ***ECB*** programmes could be filed with the German Constitutional Court, as this latest ruling in Karlsruhe sounds a bit like an invitation to do exactly that. So, yes: what the constitutional judges have decided in Germany certainly makes it a little more difficult to adopt a flexible approach in the execution of the ECB's quantitative easing".

Pepp is less bound by criteria such as purchases on the basis of capital holdings alone or the 33% ceiling for each issue held on the balance sheet. Will the ECB have to adapt?

"This flexibility is an open question. The new programme is actually much less constrained by the limits that apply in the previous ones. I don't think the ruling itself is a huge problem and the central bank can continue to act as it sees fit. But the new situation may create some uncertainty among investors. It may create doubts about the willingness and ability of the ECB to act in the future as it is doing today. In the future, unconditional support may be more difficult."

Let's imagine that at some point spreads widen. Do you think that the ECB, while continuing to act, may no longer be able to be as effective precisely because of legal uncertainty?

"It is possible. The Karlsruhe ruling is clearly counterproductive, in the midst of the deepest recession in recent times and against the backdrop of a so far slow response of the budgetary authorities at ***European*** level."

Do you think the ***European*** Recovery Initiative will be effective in macroeconomic terms?

"That is the hope, but unfortunately it is unlikely. There is still a lot of political resistance from conservative circles, from Holland or Finland, against the idea of pooling debt. We have seen that. If you really believe that governments will do something together, then this would have been the perfect opportunity. But it didn't happen. The obstacles and opposition to debt mutualisation are insurmountable".

So the institutional weakness of the ***euro*** area is even more evident with this crisis?

"It looks like a slightly more imperfect union than it appeared before this episode. The German Constitutional Court has clipped the ECB's wings, even if only at the margin. It can still fly, but it will find it harder to act as it has in the past to try to prevent spreads from widening."

Would you say that with what we have seen in recent weeks the odds of a ***euro*** break-up have gone up or down?

"It's a low-probability scenario and with what we've seen in recent weeks it's grown a bit."

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**Industry:** Budgets (82%)

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Salvini: Mes? A risk for the country But caution among its governors; The Carroccio***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-7081-F13X-91BH-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

11 May 2020 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 13

**Length:** 414 words

**Byline:** Marco Cremonesi

**Highlight:** League leader: 'We don't have to ask for help'

**Body**

MILAN Mes? "A risk for our children". Matteo Salvini has not changed his mind, not even in the case of a lighter MES. As Lucia Annunziata's guest on Mezz'ora in più , the Lega secretary remains convinced that the ***European*** Stability Mechanism is a mortgage on the future and opens the way to Greek scenarios: "The ESM is a treaty that provides conditions, it's money on loan. If one fails to fulfil them, then the Troika comes in". For Salvini, the alternative remains that of which he has spoken so often, a form of quantitative easing that he calls "tax-free treasury bonds". The Lega secretary explains: "Mes is 37 billion. The ECB could guarantee the purchase of Italian bonds for an amount four times higher, but without any kind of conditionality or risk".

The point is that 'we must not ask for a little help as the last in our class because the Italians have paid 140 billion, we do not need a little help from wasteful people, we ask to have what we are entitled to, without conditions'. If not, 'from 2022 Italy risks being a special supervised country, and someone could impose assets'.

From the majority, Andrea Marcucci, president of the Democratic Party senators, replied: "Sense of the State and national interest naturally lead us to say yes to the MES for our health care. Savini and the sovereignists, who oppose it, are fighting an ideological battle against ***Europe***, which is certainly not good for Italy".

And yet, in spite of the opposition reiterated yesterday, it seems that the leader of the Italian League has realised that the battle against the MES is not paying off. After all, not even with his voters who, as one Salvinian explains, "expect large injections of money without looking too closely". The same Lega Nord governors, Attilio Fontana and Massimiliano Fedriga, are adopting all the necessary caution, specifying that 'we need to see the conditions', but they do not seem ready for the barricades. In the same way, the Lega Nord secretary no longer seems to be counting on Matteo Renzi's role as a troublemaker, perhaps with a view to a government of national health with all the parties involved: "The only choice after this government," he says, "is to give confidence to the Italians. I don't think of other solutions, Renzi goes out and someone else comes in: either there is a government capable of governing or we trust the Italians. But if there is a minister who resigns every week, I do not see any other possible palace games.

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**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Labor + Employment (88%); Riots (87%); Immigration (82%); Politics (81%); Families + Children (80%); Labor Unions (75%); Teaching + Teachers (70%); Economic Growth (69%); National Debt (62%)

**Industry:** Budgets (94%)

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The ministers of theEU ministersAlone we will not be saved, tracking data will be valid across borders"; The Letter***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600C-SPF1-JDMV-K39T-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 May 2020 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 982 words

**Byline:** Dorothee Bär

**Body**

The ***EU*** and its Member States are facing the greatest challenge caused by the Coronavirus crisis since its foundation. The pandemic has so far claimed thousands of lives and is affecting all aspects of daily life with an impact that cannot yet be sufficiently assessed. The consequences of the pandemic and the economic consequences do not stop at borders. Two of the ***European Union***'s greatest achievements - the free movement of goods and people - are at risk. No Member State can fight the crisis on its own. And this is especially true in the digital economy. The return to normality in the ***EU, the*** revival of the economy and the movement of people across borders require a common ***European*** effort. Digital technologies have enabled us in ***Europe*** to remain constantly connected despite physical distance. These same technologies can also help us out of this crisis. Based on studies by epidemiologists, technology is a valuable tool of our time. Alerting and tracking applications are an important means of identifying people we come into contact with. They can limit the spread of disease and break the chains of contagion through a simple and rapid notification process and more effectively than other means.

Of course, contact tracing is only one of the many digital and analogue solutions available. Digital tools are of course only additional and subordinate measures within a more complex and articulated health strategy aimed at fighting the virus. But in order to fight the pandemic, it is our responsibility to make this tool available in our countries as well.

The challenge now is to develop technological solutions that, while also taking into account national specificities, are also effective outside the borders of the Member States.

These solutions are developed in compliance with national and ***EU*** data protection and privacy legislation, as well as on the basis of shared principles. We are committed to developing open source applications that respect privacy and are only adopted on a voluntary basis. Several technological solutions are currently being studied. We remain convinced that Member States have the power to choose the technological architectures that best suit their context and their healthcare systems. We are committed to a joint effort to achieve the necessary level of cross-border interoperability of tracking apps and we want to continue working together at ***European*** level. Our national teams are working, in an unprecedented joint effort, with the best research centres to quickly develop national apps. We have already launched research initiatives to strengthen interoperability at ***European*** level in the medium term. We recognise, however, that technical and ethical discussions regarding the development of tracking apps represent a challenge in the way ***Europe*** relates to the major global players in the digital sector. At a time like this, when the use of technology is crucial to combat this global crisis, as national governments, we expect technology companies to take into account the general welfare and needs of countries when setting digital standards. The use of digital technologies must be designed in such a way that we, as democratically elected governments, assess and judge it to be acceptable to our citizens and in accordance with our ***European*** values. We believe that calling this right into question by imposing technical standards is a misstep and a missed opportunity for open cooperation between governments and the private sector. States and companies must cooperate to overcome this pandemic and become stronger, more collaborative and more digital than ever before. Digital sovereignty is a necessary condition for ***Europe to*** remain competitive in a sustainable way. It must therefore be our ambition to set digital standards in the globalised world in order to determine the use and production of digital applications, in particular in the field of strategically important digital technologies, independently of private individuals or areas of economic interest. Together, we will work at various levels, national and international, to ensure the construction and strengthening of our digital sovereignty as ***Europeans***. It is our common task to advance a strong ***European*** digital sector as an engine for our economic growth.

***Europe is being put to*** the test during this period. This crisis of exceptional proportions requires decisive action by all Member States and the ***EU*** institutions and bodies. This moment can only be faced and overcome together. Through coordinated and interoperable solutions, we will find a way out of the crisis, preserving what we hold dear: a united and dynamic ***Europe.***

Minister for Digital Affairs, Germany Cédric O

Secretary of State for Digitalisation, France

Paola Pisano

Minister for Technological Innovation, Italy Carme Artigas Brugal

Secretary for Digitisation, Spain André de Aragao Azevedo

Secretary of State for Digital Transition, Portugal

Confidentiality We are committed to developing open source applications that respect privacy.

and are only adopted

on a voluntary basis

~

About me

Dorothee Bär Minister

for Digital Affairs (Germany)

Cédric O Secretary of State for Digitalisation (France)

Carme Artigas Brugal Secretary for digitisation (Spain)

André de Aragao Azevedo State Secretary for Digital Transition (Portugal)

Paola Pisano Minister for Technological Innovation (Italy)

**Classification**

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**Industry:** Entertainment + Arts (77%); Broadband (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Pigasse and Strauss-Kahn "The crisis is total"; The economy and theeurope Interview with the two French protagonists of world finance, concerned about this "unprecedented" situation. "States need direct resources: perpetual bonds a possible way".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600C-SPF1-JDMV-K39V-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 May 2020 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 10.11

**Length:** 2120 words

**Byline:** from our correspondent in Paris Stefano Montefiori

**Body**

M atthieu Pigasse comes to meet us at the new headquarters of Nouvelles Éditions Indépendantes, the holding company for his media and events activities, which he has been working on for over a year.

Le Monde

a

Les Inrockuptibles

at the festival

Rock en Seine

The building near Montmartre is still semi-deserted - 'I spent my confinement here, practically alone' -, we go up to the top floor where the rock music-loving investment banker has his office. In Morocco, his mentor in finance Dominique Strauss-Kahn is waiting for our call. A rare and lengthy conversation follows - full version on

Corriere.it

- on the new ***Europe***, and the new world, in the age of Covid.

How do you judge the current economic situation? How serious is it?

Dominique Strauss-Kahn: "At a global level, the economic situation is more serious than people say, in ***Europe*** and on other continents. A start has been made on responding to the pandemic, but action remains very inadequate; and solidarity within the ***European Union*** has been totally inadequate since the beginning of the crisis".

Matthieu Pigasse: 'It is indeed a total and unprecedented crisis. Unprecedented in its nature, a supply shock that is the result of a massive halt in production; unprecedented in the speed with which it has affected the entire world; unprecedented in its magnitude. A crisis that truly brings us into the 21st century'.

Yet some encouraging signs have appeared in the last few days: a gradual end to the quarantine with no rise in the number of victims, new hopes for a vaccine, political lines moving.

DSK: "The health signals are encouraging, yes. Although honestly no one knows what will happen if there is a second wave. As for the political lines, we'll see at tomorrow's ***European*** Council whether they really have shifted or whether they were just words. For now, I'm not back to being optimistic".

MP: "What is encouraging is the way in which we have responded to the crisis at this stage, without being afraid to drop some dogmas and in particular an old one: monetary financing of the deficit. Central banks use monetary creation to finance essential expenditure. This has been done in England in a completely open way, in the United States in an open way and in the ***eurozone in a way that has*** not yet been totally open or claimed. The answer to the crisis was not debt, but money".

Monetary creation as the preferred instrument, rather than debt?

DSK: "It is true that many dogmas have fallen and we have Mario Draghi to thank for being the first to get his foot in the door. But, quite simply, everything cannot be entrusted to the central banks. States have a role to play. I think that the solution is perpetual bonds".

MP: "Everything cannot be entrusted to central banks, indeed. But the central banks must be at the service of the states, and have as their mission not only price stability but also employment, growth, and the financing of indispensable long-term expenditure. We are rediscovering the need to invest in health care, for example, and to do so we must give ourselves the means. Neo-liberalism has been based on too many dismemberments of the state, resulting in the proliferation of independent authorities that are accountable to nothing and no one".

DSK: "We have a difference of opinion on that, Matthieu. The independence of the central banks is a good thing, provided that the states also fulfil their role. We need monetary action, but we also need to provide the states with direct resources.

In order to guarantee these direct resources to the states, does the proposal for perpetual bonds that you are putting forward, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, echo that of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez?

DSK: "I think justice should be done to George Soros for being the first to put this solution on the table. Perpetual bonds today would bear interest at, say, 0.5% and could, in one or more issues, easily provide the 1 trillion ***euros*** that are needed. I insist on the fact that in this way only an obligation to pay 5 billion a year out of their own resources is pooled. Even the "frugal countries" of the North, together with Austria, could accept this".

What is the scope of the Franco-German initiative presented by Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel? Germany has broken away from these "frugal countries" and accepted for the first time the principle of debt mutualisation.

DSK: "It's an important moment, for sure. But there are two caveats: the first is that a Franco-German agreement is not enough. It represents a powerful coalition, I agree, but it clashes with the "frugal" alliance. The second caveat is that this plan is not enough in terms of the sum proposed. At least 1,000 billion ***euros are needed,*** not 500, and to find them we need more ambitious solutions than those proposed so far. The best solution is perpetual bonds.

What might be the consequences of the Karlsruhe judges' ruling? Could it be that they unwittingly pushed Merkel closer to the position of France and Southern ***Europe***?

DSK: "The Karlsruhe judges have pushed the states forward, yes. But there are two other aspects I would like to underline. The ***European*** Court of Justice has been ignored, and this is a threat to the entire ***European*** legal order. Then, it is the first time that the independence of the ECB has been called into question. For me it is a problem, although perhaps not for Matthieu, that the independence of the ECB is being challenged."

MP: "I would say that Karlsruhe poses potentially important risks, precisely because this decision calls into question the ECB's action in favour of states. If the ECB could no longer buy government debt, the consequence would be a rise in interest rates that would raise the question of debt sustainability, particularly for Italy".

DSK: "But it will be quite easy for the ECB to answer the judges in Karlsruhe that these measures are proportionate to the needs. Few practical economic consequences, I believe, but on the theoretical level you are right."

What is your view of the Italian situation?

DSK: "Italy had the misfortune to be hit first by the virus in ***Europe*** and we realise now that the ridiculous criticism it suffered was really inappropriate. Having said that, it is true that the economic situation is difficult because of the debt. For me, Italy is very important. In 1997, Matthieu was with me at the Ministry of Finance, I fought against the Germans for Italy to enter the ***euro***. The Germans, at that time, insisted that interest rates were not converging enough. Together with Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who was finance minister at the time, we fought and obtained that Italy should not be kept out of the ***euro***. Because for me there is no ***Europe*** without Italy, and I haven't changed my mind. So we have to do everything, in terms of ***European*** solidarity, so that Italy can go through this transition".

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte does not want to use the ESM, he says 37 billion is not enough and would influence Italian politics too much. The precedent of Greece is often cited. What do you think?

DSK: "I agree with the figure, that's why I say that much more is needed and I refer to the proposal for perpetual bonds. But we must not be reticent, the aid mechanisms exist to use them when they are needed. And Italy is not the only country that needs it, we must not treat it like a black sheep".

MP: "We are familiar with the case of Greece because Dominique was Director General of the IMF at the time and I advised the Greek government. The circumstances were very different, but we saw the dramatic consequences of austerity policies and the limits of setting conditions that were too strict and too hard. The situation is different today, the whole of ***Europe*** is affected. There is no reason for Italy alone to call for or activate this ESM. All the ***European*** countries should make use of it and without any special conditions".

In recent years we have often heard predictions of the end of neoliberalism. According to the French minister Bruno Le Maire, capitalism, in its current version, is dead. Will this crisis complete the end of a political, historical and economic period?

DSK: "I don't think it's the end of capitalism, but something can change. Liberalism is when collective organisation recedes and individualism takes precedence over everything, until a massive shock allows history to take back some of its rights. Undoubtedly with less liberalism and more emphasis on collective action".

MP: "It is always amusing to see the representatives of capitalism say: 'It is the end of capitalism'. What is certain is that this crisis marks the end of neo-liberal capitalism as we have known it, built on the triptych of globalisation, the diminishing role of the state, and a step backwards in social protection. This triptych has been dramatically undermined by the crisis and will not recover. It is up to us to collectively invent a new world, a new model of society based on solidarity and the long term.

Do you fear a worsening of social tensions in the coming months?

MP: "Yes. I think the only way to avoid them is to use a lot more redistribution and sharing. The consequences of the epidemic will be terrible in terms of business failures, unemployment, and above all inequality. The greatest victims of Covid are not the greatest victims of post-Covid. The former are the elderly, the latter are the young, who will be affected and penalised in a lasting way, through the current state of the education system, the labour market, and the burden of debt'.

DSK: "Every crisis causes an explosion of inequalities. And there is no other way to respond to this than through sharing, a society that takes more account of the needs of its members. The old word 'solidarity' regains much of its relevance".

Do you think that the various lockdowns implemented all over the world, although indispensable, nevertheless pose risks to our democratic structures?

MP: "We see very well how fragile our freedoms are, how quickly we can fall into a system where we give up essential freedoms. Another great lesson of this crisis is the great vulnerability and fragility of our democratic systems".

DSK: "We can conceive that in a perfectly democratic regime, in exceptional cases, a country can decide for restrictions on freedom, but these restrictions must be temporary, limited. In France, for example, certain measures taken in the name of the fight against terrorism have become part of common law and are now accepted as if this were normal. This is how, in small steps, freedom disappears".

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Biography/1

Fifty-one years old, educated at Sciences Po and Ena, in the late 1990s Matthieu Pigasse was part of Dominique Strauss-Kahn's cabinet at the Ministry of Finance. Alongside his interests in publishing (shareholder in Le Monde , for example), Pigasse advises companies and states. At the end of the year, he left the investment bank Lazard for the American Centerview.

Biography/2

STRAUSS-KAHN

Seventy-one years old, Dominique Strauss-Kahn was a socialist Minister of Industry and then of Finance, then Managing Director of the IMF from 2007 to 2011. On 14 May 2011, Strauss-Kahn was arrested in New York after a complaint of rape made by the maid Nafissatou Diallo. The "Sofitel scandal" forced him to resign and prevented him from running for the Elysée in 2012, in which he was heavily favoured. He was acquitted in court (civil case closed with a financial settlement). Involved in the prostitution scandal at the Carlton Hotel in Lille, he was acquitted. At the head of the consulting firm Parnasse International, which he founded in Morocco, "DSK" advises states and companies. He was recently consulted by the current Minister of the Economy, Bruno Le Maire, and other members of President Macron's party.

"There is no reason why Italy is the only one to ask for the activation of the ESM: it is not the black sheep of the ***EU***. Will this shock sanction the end of capitalism? No, but something can change.

500 billion allocated

as a Recovery Fund to overcome the economic crisis in the ***European Union***

60 the percentage of the Recovery Fund that will go to non-repayable grants, while 40

or 30% will be

in loans

2011 the year

of introducing the ***European*** Mechanism

stability programme (MEP),

otherwise

said Fund

save-states

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**Industry:** Budgets (65%)

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[***Frugal versus solidarity A mix of aid and loans is negotiated; Recovery Instrument***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600C-SPF1-JDMV-K39X-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

26 May 2020 Tuesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 521 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Body**

Tomorrow the ***European*** Commission will present to the ***EU*** Parliament the post-Covid Economic Recovery Plan, linked to the 2021-2027 ***EU*** budget, on which President Ursula von der Leyen has been working for over a month. The Recovery Instrument was expected at the beginning of May, but the distant positions among the countries have required a long weaving. The clash is between the four "frugal" countries - the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and Sweden - which do not see the need for an effort of solidarity towards the countries most affected by the coronavirus and the southern countries, already heavily in debt, which are calling for strong ***European*** action to finance the recovery and which are also supported by Germany, aware of the fact that the internal market risks fragmentation if the exit from the crisis is not coordinated.

Last week Paris and Berlin proposed a 500 billion Recovery Fund to be transferred in the form of non-repayable aid to countries in need and financed by the Commission through the issue of bonds. A flight forward (and a profound turnaround for Berlin) hindered by the counter-proposal presented at the weekend by the "frugals", who instead only want loans in exchange for reforms. The figures of the Recovery Instrument are not yet available. Vice-President Valdis Dombroskis in recent days has spoken of a plan worth "over a trillion" in loans, non-repayable transfers and investments. Yesterday, however, former Secretary General Martin Selmayr, now the ***EU*** Commission's representative in Austria, put forward some figures in an interview with the Austrian news agency: a 500 billion Recovery Fund, active for two years until 2022, made up of subsidies and loans, with percentages still to be defined, which could be 60% and 40% or 70% and 30% respectively. While the amount of the ***EU*** budget 2021-2027 should be closer to the February proposal of the President of the ***European*** Council Charles Michel (1,095 billion) than to that of the Commission (1,135 billion), and would contemplate the maintenance of the mechanism of corrections (rebate), as requested by the four "frugals". The heart of the plan is the Recovery and Resilience Facility, through which half of the funds will be distributed, according to Selmayr. To access it, countries will present a spending plan based on last week's recommendations and the Commission will have to approve it. Thus the funds will be linked to reforms and priorities identified by the ***EU***. The other funds will be used to strengthen InvestEu, heir to the "Juncker plan, for strategic investments and liquidity support for companies through the Solvency Support Instrument, for new cohesion funds and for the fund for equitable transition. Among the own resources that the Commission will propose are a plastic tax, a web tax, a tax on emissions for ***non-EU*** countries and access to the internal market for large multinationals. The first confrontation will be at the ***European*** Council on 18 June, but it is likely that another meeting will be needed before an agreement is reached.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: *European*** Union (84%); National Debt (80%); Economic Policy (70%); Multinational Corporations (70%); Communities + Neighborhoods (69%); Land Use + Development (69%); Securities + Other Investments (69%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (68%); Economic Crisis (67%); Economic Growth (65%); Government Departments + Authorities (63%); Taxes + Taxation (63%)

**Industry:** Budgets (93%); Broadband (77%)

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**End of Document**

[***"Fake news from Russia and China to scare EuropeEurope"The first dossier EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-BGJ1-F13X-90T1-00000-00&context=)

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10 June 2020 Wednesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 15

**Length:** 413 words

**Byline:** Fr. Bas.

**Body**

The pandemic in ***Europe*** was accompanied by an 'infodemic'. Not only the spread of the coronavirus but also the circulation of an excessive amount of information, not always correct, which made it very difficult for ***European*** citizens to find their way around, creating instability.

Today, ***EU*** Commission Vice-President Vera Jourová, in charge of Policy on Values and Transparency, and High Representative for ***European*** Affairs and Security Josep Borrell present the first Communication on Covid-19-related disinformation, denouncing the intervention of foreign actors and third countries, such as Russia and China, with the aim of exploiting the fears generated by the coronavirus to destabilise ***European*** societies, undermine trust in the institutions and spread an image of a weak ***EU.***

Of the 8,508 cases of misinformation recorded by the ***EU*** as of 19 May, 494 relate to conspiracy theories and false information about the coronavirus. These numbers highlight the urgent need for action. As well as recording the numerous cases of online misinformation, the document proposes strategies for the future, for better coordination and cooperation between ***European*** states, the G7, NATO and the WHO. For the Commission, it is necessary to strengthen strategic communication within and outside the ***EU*** and to use the early warning system more extensively. For its part, it will seek to facilitate the exchange of best practices related to the fight against disinformation. Cooperation with third countries, but especially with the social media, is also crucial in this action. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Commission has stressed the need for online platforms to be responsible and transparent. They have cooperated by promoting content with safe information and from authoritative sources to the detriment of false, misleading or deceptive content. But the commitment of the platforms is not over and the Commission is asking for more cooperation from social media in fact checking.

The Covid-19 crisis, according to Brussels, demonstrated the crucial role of the media and their essential service in providing citizens with reliable and correct information. This is why "in the Recovery Plan and in the next ***EU*** budget," Jourová explained, "there is attention to the media sector: we need to protect its workers and its existence because we need independent media for democracy".

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**Industry:** Internet + www (62%)

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[***Recovery fund more and more uphill Hungary on the "no" side; The measures EU measures against the crisis***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-BGJ1-F13X-90SS-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 156 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Body**

There are "difficulties in identifying consensual choices" to define the areas most affected by the pandemic and the calculation criteria, Croatian President Zdravko Maric said at the end of the Ecofin yesterday. At the meeting, the 27 ***EU*** finance ministers discussed the 750 billion recovery fund and the relationship between the ***European*** semester and the recovery plans, ahead of the Council of Heads of State and Government on 19 June. But from the outset the naysayers were clear, with the Netherlands and Austria in the lead, contesting the approach of the Recovery Fund and the balance between loans and grants. Hungary strongly rejected it, and for days Orbán has been disputing that it is designed to help the South. The divisions "do not surprise" ***EU*** Commission vice-president Dombrovskis because "it is a very large package". For Minister Gualtieri it is a "balanced compromise" that should not be kept.

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[***How to use European funds funds for the new post-Covid healthcare; Plans The Pandemic Crisis Support credit line, opened by MES, makes available approximately 36 billion euro2% of GDP, an approximate saving of 150 basis points on debt servicing.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-BGJ1-F13X-90TV-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** IDEAS & OPINIONS; Page 28

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Fabrizio Pagani and Fabio Pammolli

**Highlight:** Responsibility The crisis brings with it room for modernisation, but it demands conviction, concentration of efforts

**Body**

Italy is the 'sick man of ***Europe***'. The pandemic has emptied this definition of its metaphorical value. And if the next budget manoeuvre is going to be the most far-reaching in the history of the Republic, it is now urgent to rebuild a virtuous link between public health and the economy, between the protection of rights and the sustainability of accounts.

The Pandemic Crisis Support (Pcs) credit line, opened by the ***European*** Stability Mechanism, makes available to Italy about 36 billion ***euro***, 2% of GDP, an indicative saving of 150 basis points on debt service. One condition, just one: use the resources to redesign post-Covid healthcare. Deciding to access it entails significant savings, but above all it means tying substantial resources to health objectives, in a single way: with the utmost rigour and the best skills.

The PCP thus imposes an unavoidable responsibility on the governing class to adapt the health system. The violence of the pandemic cannot be reduced to an extreme, unrepeatable event. As in the case of major natural hazards, the country must invest in protecting itself from possible new epidemic emergencies and put itself in a position to contain the loss of human life without causing economic and social losses to explode.

In its siege of the healthcare system, the virus attacked hospitals along the chain from emergency rooms to sub-intensive wards, resuscitations and intensive care units. The flood wave was strongest when it did not encounter organised reservoirs of expansion in the territories, when it was able to count on delays in reading the data of the epidemic and on delays in protecting the most vulnerable individuals, because they were already suffering from diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and respiratory diseases. The health response was effective where it relied on integrated clinical pathways, primary care and assistance networks, timely analysis of clinical data, and adequate volumes of testing.

Against this backdrop, we have identified - with a team of experts gathered around the M&M Association and the Cerm Foundation - five priority lines of action: 1) Accelerating investment in the modernisation of hospitals, retrofitting them or building new ones to replace the older, inadequate and costly to run ones. A sufficient number of facilities should be suitable for managing epidemic emergencies, minimising the admission of infected patients to other hospitals. 2) The adaptation of intermediate care facilities, outreach centres and residential care homes. 3) The construction of a national monitoring and bio-surveillance network, with the simultaneous strengthening of networks for the treatment of chronic and multimorbidity conditions. 4) Strengthening diagnostics and home care, telemedicine and teleassistance. 5) Establishing a national network of laboratories for diagnostic tests.

Recent history tells us of a multi-speed healthcare system. This is why it is essential to have a body responsible for implementing and reporting on the programme, which designs the financing instruments and supports, or replaces, the contracting authorities where implementation is most difficult. In addition to low financing costs, the resources of the MES will only prove useful if they are supported by a strong discontinuity in the writing and management of contracts, if they are used to cut through the exhausting liturgy of competitive dialogues, if they are used to rapidly build co-financing lines between non-reimbursable appropriations and EIB credit lines, and if they support the planning of the most virtuous regions and goad the regions that are lagging behind. This is a key step in terms of engineering and financial expertise, as well as in terms of writing and monitoring complex contracts. There is no alternative, if we want to avoid the risk of an agonising pendulum between rationing and cuts to make ends meet, and trickles of unplanned expenditure. Covid-19 risks being remembered as a breaking point in the management of the system, destined to exacerbate the tensions between centralist instances and demands for autonomy. To avoid this, the ***European*** resources must be used by resuming with force the path of the requirements of standard expenditure (law no. 42 of 2009), of the taking care of the chronically ill in the territories (law no. 189/2012), of the restructuring of the hospital network (Ministerial Decree no. 70/2015).

The tightness of public finances and the monitoring of the credit line opened by the MES require planning, prudence and the ability to involve investors. The crisis brings with it room for the modernisation of Italian healthcare, and provides us with the resources to do so, but demands conviction, concentration of effort and responsibility.

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**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Jourová: systemic attack through disinformation Italy also targeted; the interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-BGJ1-F13X-90T0-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

10 June 2020 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 15

**Length:** 640 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight: *EU*** Commission Vice-President for Transparency: 'We need a new strategy' The comparison Twitter's approach to some of Trump's messages is very close to what we want The example The most shared article said Poland had obstructed a Russian flight with aid for Rome

**Body**

Online disinformation is borderless. And it also affects Italy. "The article that had the most followers was published by Sputnik Italy receiving 112,800 likes, shares and comments on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Reddit. The article falsely claimed that Poland had not allowed a Russian plane carrying humanitarian aid and a medical team to Italy to fly over its airspace." Vera Jourová, Czech, Vice-President of the ***European*** Commission in charge of Policy on Values and Transparency, is committed to the battle against online disinformation, which "threatens democracy". "A second case of disinformation, with 94 thousand interactions - she continues in the interview given to Corriere together with three other ***European*** newspapers - is an article full of conspiracy theories published in English on orientalreview.org: it claimed that the coronavirus is not a real pandemic, that Italy would leave the ***EU*** and that Trump and Putin must stop the elites and bankers from dominating the world". Today, the Commission presents its Communication on the fight against disinformation linked to Covid in view of the ***European*** Democracy Action Plan that will be presented at the end of the year and will involve web platforms, which are asked for "more responsibility and transparency because not everything can be allowed online".

You said, talking about disinformation, that ***Europe*** is under a 'systemic attack'. Who is attacking us and why?

"The ***EU is*** a union of states that is uncomfortable for some foreign actors. Especially Russia uses propaganda to disturb our stability and democracy. Fake news is systematically produced to exploit people's anxiety and fear and undermine trust in institutions. With Covid, we have also seen an increase in propaganda about China, with the narrative of a weak Union unable to protect its citizens. It is not always easy to identify who is behind it: I am not referring to who produces the fake news on the platforms, but to identify who has the intention to destabilise our societies. There are many internal actors who are willing to exploit this misinformation'.

When you talk about Russia and China, do you mean governments?

"For Russia I am referring to media programmes and networks, we are not accusing the Russian government which in any case supports this approach, we do not have the evidence. But we have published many documented cases of disinformation spread by pro-Kremlin media."

What do you ask of web platforms?

"It's not just the platforms, although they play an extremely important role. But there are a number of engagements for different actors. For Covid it is very dangerous if people can read wrong health advice. We want a monthly report from the platforms on what they do, the sources and so on. They have to open up to the public. We want them to give more space to information that comes from authorities and safe sources and if necessary remove dangerous content. There is good cooperation going on with the platforms and with the member states.

He supported Twitter for blacking out some of President Trump's messages. Is this the right choice?

"Twitter's approach - blacking out and fact checking - is very close to the way we believe will decrease the impact of disinformation. We don't want censorship and it's not in our Communication and it won't be in the Democracy Action Plan we are preparing".

He said that the ***EU*** needs "more strategic communication". Is there a risk of ***EU*** 'propaganda'?

"Not having sufficient communication, which brings facts and figures and is verifiable, leaves room for disinformation. In this moment of crisis it is necessary to rebuild citizens' trust in institutions.

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**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Riots (75%); Press Releases (71%); Criminal Offenses (63%); Larceny + Theft (63%); Economic Crisis (62%)

**Industry:** Internet + www (94%); Marketing + Advertising (80%)

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***"European funding will only reach Italy with serious programmes No need for talk'; The interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-BGJ1-F13X-90SH-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

10 June 2020 Wednesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 783 words

**Byline:** Maria Teresa Meli

**Highlight:** Delrio: I wouldn't have asked Colao to take on the world This crisis will be of such proportions that if we don't get it right, there won't be another chance What is needed is deeper work that doesn't start with ideological analyses The Mes has gone from being a worm to a butterfly There are those who comment as if it were the same as before

**Body**

ROME Mr Graziano Delrio, the PD is asking the government for a qualitative leap: what does that mean?

"I will give some very concrete examples. Take healthcare: according to the WHO we have one of the best healthcare systems in the world. We can aim to have the best ever. By investing in research, by focusing on local healthcare. And then there's the school. These were the two points we included in the government's programme: strengthening schools and public health. Schools would need their own States-General. These are the important things. I have a lot of respect and I find the fact sheets produced by Colao very useful, but I would not have given him a mandate to tackle the world. I would have asked Colao to do the part he knows well, which is industry and economic development. But on infrastructure and transport, for example, there is a lack of analysis and knowledge because the strategic plans already in place are not taken into account. I can provide a copy of them.

Why then have you been so cold about the States-General?

"We are not cold on the idea of having a vision for the next twenty years. On the contrary, we were the ones who called for it, asking for medium- and long-term projects. Not least because this is the only way to tap into ***European*** funds. It is not true that this money will arrive regardless. It will only come if we have made serious programmes. We therefore need a project based on data and not on talk. There can be no mistake: unfortunately, this crisis is of such proportions and will have such social consequences that if we do not get it right there will not be another opportunity. The PD therefore raised some issues to help, not to give lessons. I repeat, what matters is to do well".

In short, no improvisation.

"Yes, more in-depth work that does not start with ideological analyses. The how is not irrelevant.

These are long and medium-term projects, but industrial crises must be resolved immediately...

"These crises have relevant characteristics and are aggravated by this global crisis, so you have to give yourself the strength and patience to decide on new strategies. Let's take a sector I know well. It's wrong to focus on Alitalia and not on the other 70 per cent of air transport in Italy, which is linked to tourism. In recent years, the Mezzogiorno has lived off tourism thanks to the fact that airports such as Naples, Palermo, Catania, Bari, Cagliari and Olbia were served by low-cost airlines. If we want to save tourism and air transport, we cannot only discuss the nationalisation of Alitalia, which can only be done in the presence of a serious and credible industrial plan".

And how are relations with the Five Stars proceeding?

"What we are doing with them here in Parliament is very fruitful. We did a great job with them on the Liquidity Decree and we are trying to do the same on the Relaunch Decree. So the balance here is positive because we are confronting each other without ideologies. This work deserves more time, but instead we are stuck on decrees such as the election decree. However, it seems to me that this experience of government is developing a ruling class that shares certain ideals. So from this point of view I am optimistic.

But there are still diverging views on the Mes.

"You are right, we are very clear on this point. The Mes went from being a worm to a butterfly. People continue to comment on the ESM as if it were the same as before, but this is not the case. So when this money is available, we have to make very free evaluations and not ideological ones.

The PD also insists on simplification.

"This is the great problem of this country. We must simplify our laws, reducing the production of legislation and implementing decrees. Public administration must no longer be seen as a complication. But there are two other things that press me. As Mattarella says, we must invest in living communities. The revival of the country cannot take place in a demographic winter. So I hope that Parliament will soon finish examining the single child allowance and that Minister Bonetti will soon approve the Family Act. And then I believe that the time has come to do what Italy did in the immediate post-war period, because in times of crisis it is necessary to make radical choices. Then they made the ***European*** choice. Now is the time for Italy to propose a qualitative leap for ***Europe from*** the political point of view. We must take advantage of the six months under German leadership to propose, together with France and Spain, a qualitative leap for a political ***Europe*** that has, for example, a real common defence. This is what we need, a great ***European*** dream.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); ***European*** Union (82%); Globalization (68%); National Debt (63%); Public Debt (63%); Economic Policy (62%)

**Industry:** Budgets (62%)

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**End of Document**

[***Sassoli: "Here in Brussels there is confidence in Italy but it cannot act as it did before Covid"; THE INTERVIEW***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-G1S1-F13X-91TC-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

10 July 2020 Friday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 960 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight: *Europarliament*** president: agreement is possible 'Worried about autumn? No, terror"

**Body**

David Sassoli - 64 years old, a long career as a journalist - became president of the ***European*** Parliament at the start of his third term, elected on the lists of the PD. Sassoli spent days poring over the ***European*** Commission's Recovery Fund proposal before facing off with the other presidents behind closed doors on Wednesday: Ursula von der Leyen for the Commission, Charles Michel for the ***European*** Council, which brings together governments, and Chancellor Angela Merkel, as Germany holds the presidency in this decisive six-month period.

What was your impression of the negotiations?

"Michel has pledged to present a draft agreement very quickly. He needs to find unanimity among governments. We would not want this to lower the level of ambition'.

Is there irritation that Michel's proposal comes only a few days before the ***EU*** summit on 17-18 July?

"I think the interest is mainly in whether there will be cuts from the Commission's proposal and where. By how much and where, he has not indicated. There is convergence on getting an agreement that is useful for the recovery, keeping together the recovery plan and the traditional long-term programmes of the Union. A good wind also accompanies the idea of inserting new own resources of the ***European Union***: it is a priority of the Parliament, useful to create a self-financing capacity of the Union".

The Nordic countries demand control over the reforms that the Recovery Fund beneficiaries will make.

"This is a season for investment and reform, and that goes for everyone. We need a revival of the economy and a commitment from governments with reforms that will strengthen and relaunch the ***European*** market".

Also on justice and administration?

"All the reforms that allow the 27 markets to integrate more: justice, education, research, labour market. Major structural reforms, no one can be exempt".

Which institutions scrutinise the reforms: the Commission, the other governments through the working committees in Brussels, the ***European Parliament***?

"There was yesterday a clear opening by Merkel, Michel and von der Leyen for a greater involvement of the Parliament. An inter-institutional agreement on the governance of this whole package is the way forward."

Isn't the reluctance of governments to use the new instruments of the EMF giving the message that loans are not needed and so the loan part of the Recovery Fund can be cut?

"There is a bit of that feeling. The plan relies heavily on the share of direct transfers and this overshadows the issue of loans. Now, it is not enough to say that there will be transfers. The question is: for what? I believe that there must be judgements on national plans because, if they are not aligned with ***European*** priorities, they would become incompatible. It is a matter of harmonising the policies of the 27 on ***European*** challenges: digitalisation, the Green Deal, with all that it entails, and resilience. We need to be more self-sufficient, we need to bring back a lot of production to ***Europe*** and express a real presence on the international scene. There is a before and an after Covid, I don't know if everyone has realised...".

Does it worry you that perhaps not all political forces in Italy, including those in government, have understood the challenge?

"Look, I don't want to get into Italian issues. I'm just wondering where the debates are on the major reforms that Italy also needs. Where is the debate on the regional system, the labour market, the fight against poverty, the national green deal, the restructuring of the health service, the fight against tax evasion? I believe that the country's focus at the moment should be on the challenges that Covid is putting before us.

That's what the States-General were supposed to be about, wasn't it?

"In my opinion, a government that listens is also useful at the moment. The problem is that afterwards you have to roll up your sleeves. Reading the newspapers you get the impression of a country that is doing everything to get back to what it was before Covid. That's a bit of a worry.

Does it worry you, or the ***European*** governments with whom Italy has to negotiate the Recovery Fund?

"I think a little bit of everyone. Here in Brussels we talk a lot about catastrophic economic forecasts. For Italy it is an open issue. Yesterday Merkel said that ***Europe*** is facing the abyss. I don't want the Italian political debate to reflect a nostalgia for going back to spending the summer at Papeete.

Isn't this perception of Italy weakening the government's negotiating position on the Recovery Fund?

"At this moment, I must say, there is great confidence in ***Europe*** towards Italy, because Italy is really the thermometer of every effort to recover the ***European*** economy. There is confidence in the government. What is also expected is a speed of action. And perhaps greater concentration would be useful in this regard.

Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni is worried about what may happen in Italy this autumn. Are you?

"You know, when you have a forecast of minus 11.2 GDP, I think every assumption can come true. There is no concern, there is terror. Worry would not give the idea of the consequences that these figures could cause on a social level".

What if the negotiations on the Recovery Fund could not be concluded and it would take until autumn?

"We have given ourselves a method. Michel's proposal has to arrive, the Council has to discuss it. The ***European*** Parliament is also ready for extraordinary plenary sessions in the summer. We have to check the coherence of the interventions step by step.

But is agreement before the summer break within reach?

"We all hope so. But it has to be a good agreement. It has to be quick, but above all it has to be good.

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**Industry:** Budgets (64%)

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**End of Document**

[***EurogroupIreland's Donohoe wins; The Northern Front***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-G1S1-F13X-91TB-00000-00&context=)

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10 July 2020 Friday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 429 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight:** Surprise election. Spanish socialist Calviño beaten, also supported by Rome

**Body**

Countries representing 80% of the ***Eurozone***'s GDP have been beaten by the Northern Front. Because in the election of the president of the ***Eurogroup,*** which brings together the 19 finance ministers of the countries that have adopted the single currency, one is worth one and a simple majority applies. The Irishman Paschal Donohoe, 45, from the liberal-conservative Fine Gael party, an EPP family, was elected in the second round. He takes over from Mário Centeno.

The socialist candidate who was the favourite, the Spanish Nadia Calviño, supported by the four big names from Spain, Italy, France and Germany, did not make it. Neither did the eternal challenger, liberal Luxembourger Pierre Gramegna (already defeated by Centeno). On the eve of the vote, fears had been expressed among the socialists in the ***EU*** Parliament after the statements made by the European People's Party (EPP), which intended to occupy that box too, despite the fact that in the distribution of ***EU*** posts on the basis of political families it was destined for the socialist group.

The vote is secret. Donohoe, a great supporter of the favourable corporate taxation in force in Ireland (which has raised much controversy within the ***EU***), and against the introduction of the web tax (one of the new own resources under discussion to finance the Recovery Fund), had only received the explicit support of Austria and the political support of the EPP. It is likely that the centre-right governments (excluding Athens, which would have preferred Calviño) voted for him: besides those led by the Popular Party (Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia or Cyprus) and the Netherlands, which had hinted at a preference for the Irishman, Belgium and Luxembourg also did so, after Gramegna withdrew at the end of the first round in which Calviño is said to have obtained 9 votes and Donohoe and Gramegna 5 each (but there is no confirmation).

The Socialists are losing the leadership of the ***Eurogroup*** at a delicate moment, because while it is true that it is not participating in the negotiations on the Recovery Fund, a greater role for the Council in the control of future ***EU*** funds is being negotiated. And then there is the issue of budgetary policy in ***Europe*** in the coming years. All ***Eurozone*** countries agree on the need for expansionary fiscal policies for a long time to come, as explained in the ***European*** Fiscal Board's report. According to Minister Gualtieri, even after GDP is back on track. The issue of the aftermath will have to be addressed and having a socialist at the helm would have been better. Even if Donohoe's first words were in the sign of union: he will work "to ensure a fair and inclusive recovery".

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**Subject:** National Debt (94%); ***European*** Union (82%); Economic Policy (77%); Politics (73%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (68%); Economic Growth (65%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (63%); Treaties + Agreements (63%)

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[***"We are closing again". And Belgrade burns; BALCANI***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-G1S1-F13X-91T8-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 8

**Length:** 490 words

**Byline:** Marta Serafini

**Highlight:** Explosion of cases in the capital. President under indictment: clashes in front of parliament and police violence

**Body**

An assault on the Parliament, tear gas, police charges and truncheons, and 153 people in handcuffs. Two nights of real urban guerrilla warfare hit the streets of Belgrade after President Aleksandar Vucic threatened to reintroduce the lockdown.

Citizens accuse the government of lying about infection figures in order to go to the polls on 21 June - the first held in ***Europe*** since the pandemic broke out - with the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) dealing a crushing blow to Serbia's already fragile democracy by winning 63% of the vote.

In the last couple of weeks, the number of infections has been on the rise again, especially in Belgrade, bringing the total number of cases to 17,000 in a country of 7 million inhabitants. According to Vucic, it is the "irresponsible" behaviour of citizens that has made the new restrictions necessary. According to an investigation by the Birn portal, it is Vucic who is irresponsible and lying. Between 19 March and 1 June, 632 people died of the coronavirus, while the government declared only 244 deaths. Many believe that the government has underestimated the numbers for electoral purposes. In particular, Serbia went from a period of total closure, from the end of March to the beginning of May, to a return to normality, with full houses, no provisions on masks and social distancing, and sports events open to the public without restrictions. The Belgrade derby caused a stir, the largest gathering in ***Europe*** since the end of the lockdown, with 25,000 spectators. Then there was the party on 14 June, at the end of the Belgrade leg of the Adria Tour, during which tennis player Novak Djokovic, who later tested positive for the coronavirus, danced into the small hours in a disco in the Serbian capital. Then there is the news that the Minister of Defence, Aleksandar Vulin, the head of the Kosovo office, Marko Djuric, and the President of Parliament, Maja Gojkovic, fell ill after celebrating the vote. All this while in Italy, Veneto governor Luca Zaia was pointing the finger at Belgrade after the Vicenza entrepreneur was infected after a trip to Serbia.

Vucic tries to shift the blame away from himself by calling the protesters "right-wing extremists, criminals and terrapaths". But shouting conspiracy - some have even accused Moscow of directing the protests - is not enough. So, while several videos have been circulating on social networks showing police brutality against unarmed protesters, the tension has not abated despite the government backtracking on the lockdown, imposing only a ban on gatherings of 10 people. In the meantime, ***Europe*** looks on with concern. Vucic is expected in Brussels this weekend to resume dialogue with Kosovo.

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cases of coronavirus declared by the Belgrade government

against a population

of 7 million inhabitants

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**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Law Courts + Tribunals (88%); Economic Growth (76%); Gross Domestic Product (63%); Verdicts (63%); Food Exports + Imports (62%); Food Products (62%); Heads Of State + Government (62%)

**Industry:** Beverage Products (62%); Dairy Products (62%); Fruits + Vegetables (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2020

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[***Meloni just 5 points behind Lega La prova EU boosts the government; Scenarios***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-904M-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

25 July 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 15

**Length:** 689 words

**Byline:** Nando Pagnoncelli

**Highlight:** Carroccio down but is the first party (23.1%). PD at 19.6 (-0.8). M5S grows to 18.9 Reduced distances The 4 largest parties are all within 5 points Forza Italia (6.9%) plays the role of "arbiter".

**Body**

he decisions taken by the ***European*** Council to address the economic effects of the pandemic and to promote recovery are historic and will mark the future of the ***European Union***. The agreement has been the subject of great tension among member states. Public opinion is largely unable to get to the bottom of complex issues, especially when it comes to economic measures and their implications, especially if they are presented with acronyms or definitions in English, from Mes to Sure, from Recovery Fund to Next Generation ***EU***. When forming opinions, there is often a tendency to over-simplify, to compare friends and foes, between 'frugal' countries and others, between what we have managed to achieve and what we have had to give up.

As things stood, the agreement reached in Brussels is a breath of fresh air and, judging by today's poll, the government is benefiting in terms of consensus. In fact, the approval rating of the executive has risen by 4 points, from 57 to 61, the highest level since Conte 2. The Prime Minister's approval rating has also risen, from 63 to 65, approaching the peak of 66 reached in April, at the height of the health emergency. The trend was the same for the majority leaders and heads of delegations, while those of the opposition remained substantially stable compared to June.

As regards voting patterns, there was a significant reduction (-3.9%) in the grey area made up of abstentionists and undecided voters, who returned below 40%. The League, while remaining in first place with 23.1%, suffers a decrease (-0.9%) and is followed by the PD, also in decline (-0.8%), which with 19.6% returns to the values of the end of February. In third place is M5S with 18.9% (+0.9%), followed by FdI, which grew by 1.7% to 18% (its best result ever in the polls), and Forza Italia with 6.9% (-0.3%). Behind them are four political forces with values between 2.5% and 2.9%: Sinistra Italiana-Articolo Uno with 2.9% (+0.6%) on a par with ***Europa*** Verde (+1%), Azione (-0.3%) and Italia Viva (-0.4%) both with 2.5%. These are interesting figures in light of the possible adoption of the new electoral law (the Germanicum), currently being discussed by the Chamber of Deputies, based on a proportional system that could include a 3% barrier. The doubt arises that, unlike in the circumstances in which the so-called 'useful vote' was affirmed, in perspective the objective of getting the smaller forces to cross the barrier threshold may prevail, in the hope that they may prove decisive in the formation of the various government majorities.

But the scenario also includes the constitutional referendum on 20 and 21 September to confirm or reject the reform that will reduce the number of deputies (from 630 to 400) and senators (from 315 to 200). To date, only one in three Italians (35%, up 7 points on last month) is aware of this appointment. However, once informed, almost three out of four respondents (72%, compared to 67% in June) consider the referendum very important or fairly important, the outcome of which at the moment seems to be a foregone conclusion: 49% (+3% compared to June) say they would vote in favour, compared to 8% who would vote against. And the predictions that Italians express are also clear: 48% expect the reform to be approved, while only 12% are of the opposite opinion and 40% do not express an opinion.

In short, two championships seem to be emerging, the first between the four main parties, separated by just over 5 points, and the second between the minor forces, all in a position to overcome the hypothetical 3% barrier. In the middle, Forza Italia could play the role of referee. As for the government and the Prime Minister, they have received an increase in consensus from the Brussels agreement, but the projects that will be put into the pipeline will be decisive in maintaining it.

@NPagnoncelli

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**Industry:** Oil + Gas Industry (93%); Marketing + Advertising (87%); Retail + Wholesale Trade (68%); Internet + Www (67%); Farmers + Ranchers (63%)

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[***l'europe in the sign of merkel; The turning point, history***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-905W-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** IDEAS & OPINIONS; Page 30

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Maurizio Ferrera

**Body**

I n democracies, the most capable leaders only become fully fledged 'statesmen' when they leave the scene. Perhaps, after the agreement reached on the Recovery Fund, Angela Merkel deserves an exception, at least as far as her ***European*** role is concerned. In the ***EU*** framework - following Habermas - a statesman is recognised because he knows how to "make history", i.e. he acts in the knowledge that at certain times decisions have to be taken that will influence the destiny of the whole continent and of many generations to come.

One can be more or less satisfied with its specific contents; but it is hard to deny that the "Next Generation ***Eu"*** plan represents a major turning point in this respect. Along with currency, the sharing of economic and social risks is one of the defining features of political communities and their commitment to sustainability.

Only a decade ago, many thought that Merkel was not statesmanlike, let alone ***European***. During the sovereign debt crisis, the Chancellor was strongly criticised - not without reason - for her cowardice, her tendency to postpone decisions. Her surname turned into a verb ( merkeln ) which since then means "to stall". Joschka Fischer, the former foreign minister and influential public figure, accused her of having broken the main axis of German politics: ***Europeanising*** problems and solutions, making Germany increasingly ***European***. With her closures to financial solidarity with the countries of the South, Merkel had followed the opposite path: bending ***Europe*** to German preferences and interests.

Over the decade, the Union has had to face a dramatic "poly-crisis": the great recession, the immigration tsunami, the Brexit. And in the early 2020s, the most terrible challenge of all: the coronavirus. A real emergency in terms of health, economy, politics, which could have thrown the ***EU*** back into the grip of the nation states: blocking of borders and trade (even masks), each country back on its own.

The negotiations on the Next Generation ***EU*** plan (750 billion of common debt for loans and subsidies to the most affected countries to be disbursed in three years) have instead been closed under the banner of pan-European solidarity, and even with an act of altruism: Germany has renounced the discount on contributions to the ***EU*** budget that was instead demanded by the frugal countries, led by the Netherlands. Angela has repaired the "backbone" broken a decade ago and has inaugurated a new role for Germany, that of a hegemonic but responsible country, attentive to the collective interest. Some will no doubt continue to turn up their noses: are we not all equal in ***Europe?*** Formally, yes, but in fact we cannot all have the same decision-making weight. Germany has economic and demographic dimensions that make it objectively more equal than others. And a Germany that knows how to act in the ***European*** interest is much better than a Germanised ***Europe.***

In a statement that will probably go down in the history books, Merkel told Bundestag members on 23 April, just hours before a video-conference ***European*** Council, that "commitment to a united ***Europe*** is part of the German raison d'état... For us, ***Europe*** is a community of destiny". And she added: this is not one of those catchphrases you read in Sunday newspaper supplements. It is 'something very practical', including higher contributions to the common budget.

Several factors have allowed Angela Merkel to act as a stateswoman. Last February, on the eve of the pandemic, the Chancellor officially announced that she would not run again in the next election. At least in part, this freed her from one of the most "unpleasant" rules of democracy: if you ask for present sacrifices for future benefits, the voters turn their backs on you. Thanks to her effective management of the health emergency, the Chancellor's approval rating rose to a record 70% and did not fall when she started talking about solidarity with her "Italian and Spanish friends" and even broke the taboo on ***Eurobonds.*** Since the beginning of March, Angela had already repeated several times in public that Germany's welfare is inextricably linked to the internal market and therefore to the prosperity of the Union "in every part and country".

In this way Merkel has created the most propitious conditions for exercising dual leadership: domestic and ***European***. A difficult and courageous move in a multi-headed political system such as the ***EU,*** where leaders have an incentive to strenuously defend the interests of their constituents. As we have seen, the just concluded negotiations were no exception, indeed some leaders played shamelessly aggressive games. Of course, France also played an important role. But without Angela's clout, Macron would not have got very far: he does not have enough domestic legitimacy to be able to invest some of it in ***Europe***. And so it was the Chancellor who made the investment and transformed an imminent perfect storm into its exact opposite: the arrival in port of a negotiation that risked failing, creating devastating rifts for the integrity and functioning of the Union.

To posterity the arduous judgment. But if we take a long view, we can already give Angela Merkel a bit of glory. In recognition of Germany's and the ***EU's*** first female leader and stateswoman in pectore, in the wake of a century-long history in which conflicts between ***European*** states have systematically prevailed over mutual sharing.

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**Industry:** Budgets (74%)

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[***"The bailout fund is an unbeatable opportunity"; theeuroparliament***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-904K-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

25 July 2020 Saturday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 13

**Length:** 942 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight:** President Sassoli: 'We will not give up negotiating on the budget, ***EU*** democracy is at stake' ***Europe*** is now much stronger, aware that challenges must be met together The risks There is great alarm in Brussels because these resources are also a temptation for criminals

**Body**

"***Europe*** is now asking for great concentration from governments: the 27 countries must not waste time and must immediately start preparing their national recovery plans. The funds will arrive next year and Italy must make sure to use them immediately. Our citizens cannot wait". The message from David Sassoli, President of the ***European*** Parliament, is clear and twofold: the States must do their part and the ***EU*** Parliament is ready to work on the next budget 2021-2027, to which the Recovery Fund is linked, without giving up negotiations. Sassoli also issued a warning: "There is great alarm in Brussels because these resources are also tempting for criminals".

The ***EU*** Parliament does not agree on cuts to ***European*** programmes in the 2021-2027 budget. What will happen now?

"Negotiations between the institutions must begin on the three major instruments. Just as there has been a common response, we now need to strengthen the Union's democratic process. On the table there is the Recovery Fund, the new own resources, i.e. how to make the Union's budget self-sufficient without weighing on citizens' pockets, and then the budget for the next seven years. In particular, Parliament is critical of the budget because the proposal contains unjustified cuts. If you say you want to invest in research, you don't cut it. If you say you want to work for the younger generation, you have to put more money into Erasmus. If you think that immigration is a common challenge, don't reduce the resources. If you want to get out of coal dependency, you don't cut in half the money for transition for industries that need to convert. The Parliament wants to negotiate and improve the Council's proposal.

Is there a risk of a longer time frame?

"No, because on own resources we are ready to discuss the Commission's proposal also in September. On the Recovery Plan we have clear ideas on how to involve Parliament in the democratic process, and on the multiannual budget we will also begin discussions with the other institutions in August. I appreciated the President of the Commission, Mrs von der Leyen, who said that she wants to activate Article 324 of the Treaty and therefore the negotiation between the presidents of the three institutions: Parliament, the Commission and the rotating presidency of the Council, and therefore with Chancellor Merkel".

In the government of the 'frugal' countries there are social democrats, populars and liberals. But they make populist and nationalist demands. Is there a clash over the vision of ***Europe***?

"I did not see anyone get up from the negotiating table. Everyone with their own temperament and interests worked for a common response. The result shortens the gap between North and South. We should not be afraid of the debate, we should be afraid of the crisis. The ***European*** Council finally unanimously found a common ***European*** response to the Covid-19 emergency".

Who won in the end between Italy and Holland?

"In the debate there was an attempt to strengthen the intergovernmental position, because some solutions proposed by the Northern countries on the competences of the Commission and Parliament would have cut off the EU institutions. But this logic did not prevail because there was very important work, also by Prime Minister Conte, on respecting the dictates of the Treaty. And some of the legal opinions that arrived at the Council confirmed the Community position".

So what kind of ***Europe*** are we looking at?

"It is a ***Europe*** that comes out much stronger, aware that challenges must be met together and that individual countries alone would be impoverished, sold out and marginalised. And this awareness is basically Monnet's warning: ***Europe*** is made through the crises it faces. In three months we have taken steps forward that had never been possible in previous decades".

On own resources, states are struggling to agree. Critics say they are just new ***European*** taxes. Why will this time be different?

"The new own resources serve to finance the ***European*** budget without burdening national budgets, so they must be introduced quickly with a detailed timetable for the coming years. We are not talking about new taxes, but about regulating activities in the digital sector, in policies to combat CO2 emissions, in the use of plastic, in financial activities. In addition, the own resources will guarantee the bonds that the Commission will issue.

Recovery Fund funds will be available from the second half of 2021. Should Italy reconsider the Mes?

"It is an opportunity because all citizens want health structures to be strengthened. ***Europe*** is not imposing anything, it has made instruments available, and it will be the responsibility of governments to verify their use. The MES makes it possible to carry out programmes to strengthen public health: recruitment, resources for specialised doctors, investments in equipment, new hospitals, and aid to the regions under commission that cannot make investments. I believe that there is no other money available on the market at the rate of 0.1%.

Is the road now downhill?

"We are still inside the emergency. How we will get out of the pandemic is not yet clear to anyone. It is not certain that there is no need for new interventions. We must feel a strong ethical tension to give something back to the 200,000 dead in ***Europe***: the only way is to help our citizens and future generations to be better prepared to defend life and work. And in this transition phase, the ***European Union*** is the only insurance available to our 27 countries'.

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[***a forum to give life to a "new renaissance"; The proposal Italy will face major challenges. Reflection is needed to ensure we are not found unprepared.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-905T-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

25 July 2020 Saturday

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**Section:** IDEAS & OPINIONS; Page 30

**Length:** 1065 words

**Byline:** Andrea Illy \* and Klaus Schwab\*\*.

**Highlight:** Reflection We need to address the negotiation of the economic and reform plan, the social crisis triggered by the lockdown and the aftermath of the health emergency

**Body**

For more than a decade, the Italian economy has not achieved a satisfactory performance. Yet it is undeniable that Italy is rich in intangible resources and opportunities. Where does the problem lie? There are two causes: political instability (66 governments in 74 years) and an excessively high public debt, a legacy of the 1980s.

In 1994, the debt exceeded 120% of GDP, but in the following decade the country embarked on an encouraging path of consolidation, thanks to higher economic growth and the consequent reduction in debt, which approached the more sustainable threshold of 100%. Unfortunately, the double global financial crisis of 2007-2008, together with the ***euro*** crisis of 2011-2012, interrupted this virtuous circle, leading to a loss of 25% of GDP in 2014 and a record public debt ratio of 135%.

Last year, Italy had still not recovered from this shock: the contraction of investments (from 21% before 2017 to 17%) reduced growth to a modest 0.3% in 2019 (the worst figure among ***EU*** countries), with a GDP that had not yet regained its 2007 level. As a result, debt remained at around 135%, productivity (already one of the lowest in ***Europe***) did not increase and unemployment remained the third worst in ***Europe***, at almost double the average of the other 24 ***EU countries***.

The country was already in a difficult situation before Covid, and now the 2020 GDP is expected to lose up to 12% and the debt could reach a new record of 160%: a "perfect storm", with the very serious risk of not being able to restart or stand on its own two feet. The choices to be made will be decisive for the future of Italians and for that of future generations. It is therefore essential that they put all their intelligence to work, with the imperative of getting the economy off the ground and recovering international credibility.

The good news is that both Italy and ***Europe*** are reacting positively: the institutions appear to be aware of the seriousness of the situation and eager to turn the problem into an opportunity for a "new Renaissance", aiming to resolve once and for all the most deep-rooted causes of the poor economic performance; while the ***European Union*** announced on 21 July that its 27 leaders had reached an agreement on the aid package and the next budget for 2021-2027, from which Italy will be able to benefit greatly. It could thus recreate the 'magical' conditions that led it to become a world leader after World War II, despite its wartime defeat.

Time is of the essence here: everything has to be decided by next autumn and everything has to work perfectly. That is why a clear vision and flawless execution are absolutely necessary: there is no room for political wavering or zigzagging this time. In order to revive a new virtuous circle, first of all we need a competitive strategy that outlines everything Italy has to offer, to whom, with what advantages and with what competitors, as well as with what economic and financial spin-offs. The country has a strong vocation to contribute to world prosperity thanks to its lifestyle and the distinctiveness of Made in Italy, factors that involve many sectors of a large and constantly growing international market. At the same time, both the ***European*** Green Deal and digitalisation represent opportunities for a profound renewal of the economy and society.

The second step is to prioritise the reforms needed to get the country moving again. Once the obstacles have been removed, it will be possible to accelerate investment through tax reform, industrial policies and educational reform to make the most of the talents that make up a treasure trove of Italy's age-old culture. The goal is a prosperous and inclusive, sustainable and resilient Italy.

It would seem that this time we are serious about going down this road, so a clear and concise plan with a few key priorities needs to be drawn up quickly. It is also time to change typical individualistic and opportunistic attitudes and develop the ability to work together.

With Italy, many countries need to act together and quickly to renew every social and economic aspect, from education to social contracts and working conditions. We must press the reset button on capitalism. This pandemic represents a unique but time-limited opportunity to rethink and reset our world, creating a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future.

The complexity of the global economy and the systemic crisis we are going through - climate, health, financial, economic, social - can only be tackled by putting our brains into a hyper-intelligent network: this is why strong public-private cooperation must be set up as soon as possible. In our post-industrial society, it is not enough for governments to listen to political parties, trade unions and business associations: it is the whole of civil society that must be called upon, and young people in particular, to generate strong thinking capable of mobilising all the intelligence, creativity and talent of Italians.

In order to achieve this, we believe it would be useful to create a forum which, by focusing on the major themes of leadership, competitiveness, sustainable development and strategic thinking, would seek through dialogue a multi-party lowest common denominator. We believe that this inclusive approach can be successful, ensuring that all citizens take part in this 'new renaissance'.

This autumn, Italy will face three major challenges: the negotiation of its economic and reform plan, the social crisis triggered by the current economic crisis, and the need to tackle the economic crisis.

lockdown

and the continuation of the health emergency. In order not to be found unprepared, a summer reflection will be appropriate, also in view of a series of meetings to be started upon return. Whether the probability of salvation is higher than a more pessimistic hypothesis depends solely on the Italians. Let's think about it and talk about it.

\*Ernesto Illy Foundation

\*\*Founder and Executive Chairman,

World Economic Forum

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[***Imported coronavirus No checks on buses arriving from all over Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-907W-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

25 July 2020 Saturday

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**Section: BREAKING** NEWS OF ROME; Page 2.3

**Length:** 721 words

**Byline:** Claudio Rinaldi

**Highlight:** One day at Tiburtina: passengers quickly leave The buses The two Romanian carers who contracted the virus passed on these buses The attendant: "It would be better to divert the passengers elsewhere, here there is no security".

**Body**

If you arrive in Rome by plane you will be checked, but if you arrive by bus no one will stop you. At Fiumicino airport, as at Ciampino, all landing passengers are obliged to pass health checks before leaving the airport. No one can escape the thermoscanner. This is not the case at the Tiburtina bus station, where dozens of coaches from Italy and ***Europe*** arrive every day. Yet no one monitors arrivals here. So the passengers descend the steps, pick up their trolleys, go through the gate and leave undisturbed, all through the same exit a few metres from where the buses stop.

The security staff only measure the temperature of those entering the station, but not of those leaving. "It sounds absurd, but these are the instructions we have received. We are not authorised to do anything else," confides one of them, who admits to having some perplexity about the issue: "I understand the attention paid to those who are leaving, but why not pay attention above all to those who come to Rome from abroad, from countries where the epidemic is still widespread?

The two carers who returned from Romania and later tested positive for the Coronavirus passed through the Tiburtina bus station. In recent weeks, the most populous country in the Balkans has become one of the main hotbeds in the ***European Union***. So the episode worries those who work in the station: "What happened does not make us feel comfortable - says another security officer - perhaps it would be better to divert buses from abroad, since here the exit controls are non-existent.

Many seasonal workers and other domestic helpers could leave Bucharest and return to Italy in the next few days. This risk has prompted the Minister of Health, Roberto Speranza, to issue an order yesterday afternoon ordering those who have stayed in Romania and Bulgaria in the last 14 days to be quarantined. Until 24 hours ago there were no restrictions. As of today, the new measure should intensify controls on those coaches arriving at Tiburtina from Eastern ***Europe.*** However, it will not be easy to monitor all passengers. As a ticket office employee explained: 'Not all of them come to Rome on direct routes, many stop over in France, change buses and then arrive in Italy'.

"How can you control them all?" is the question the station barman also asks. "I see hundreds of people pass by every day, a lot of them are foreigners. The truth is that, with the security staff available, it is unthinkable to be able to keep an eye on everyone passing through Tiburtina".

The lack of controls also amazes travellers: 'I've come from Basilicata. I was sure I was going to have to pass a health check, I thought they would at least take my temperature, but instead I'm really puzzled," explains an out-of-town student who has returned to the city to retrieve some of the clothes she had left behind since the lockdown in her rented flat in the university area of Piazza Bologna.

"Luckily there's no one with a thermoscanner,' retorts a gentleman in a shirt from Pescara, 'we've had enough of this virus. They're right to let people go. They're right to let people go. Travellers are not pests, I'm here on business.

The bus drivers show the thermoscanner and assure that all passengers are measured for temperature before boarding, but one security officer is sceptical: 'Of course, this is what happens in Italy. But who can assure us that the same thing happens in Bucharest or Paris? Can we really trust them? Let's hope that those in charge at the bus station understand that more controls are needed.

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The node

At the airports, at Fiumicino and Ciampino, all arriving passengers have their temperature taken. While in the stations, only those entering are checked, not those leaving. Even the workers, for example on duty at Tiburtina, show concern

Measures

Protected corridors and thermal scanners at Tiburtina station, but also monitoring in Castro Pretorio

and Cornelia: these are the critical points

transit

which will be controlled by the Asl Roma 1,

to avoid new arrivals

of infected citizens

in town

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[***Paris: 'Avoid Catalonia' L'Europe fears second wave; the alarm***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-9049-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 524 words

**Byline:** Stefano Montefiori

**Highlight:** Over 1,000 new cases in France, stop to arrivals from 16 countries. Germany also considers new measures

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PARIS 'The circulation of the coronavirus is clearly increasing'. The Directorate General of Health is sounding the alarm in France: yesterday there were 1,130 new cases (more than 1,000 for the second consecutive day) and therefore "at levels comparable with those we recorded towards the end of the confinement". A new total blockade is also excluded because it would not be economically and socially sustainable, but France, and other ***European*** countries, are taking precautions to prevent the holidays from causing the feared second wave.

After having reinstated the general obligation to wear masks indoors - some seaside resorts have extended it to the outdoors - Paris is once again recommending smart working and above all the use of swabs "at the slightest doubt" (half a million tests a week). And at the end of the emergency meeting of the Defence Council, chaired by Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister Jean Castex visited Roissy - ***Europe's*** second airport - to announce new measures: "Anyone arriving from countries where viral circulation is particularly strong will have to undergo a test at the airport. Anyone who tests positive will be quarantined for two weeks.

The black list includes 16 countries (United States, Brazil, India, South Africa, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Algeria, Turkey, Madagascar, Peru, Panama, Serbia), with which the borders are already closed: tourists are not allowed, the tests concern French citizens residing in those countries or citizens of those countries who have a permanent residence in France, i.e. the only cases in which travel is allowed.

Prime Minister Castex then asked the French to avoid Barcelona and the rest of Catalonia, where cases have been rising sharply over the past few days, "and we are discussing with the Spanish authorities to limit the exits from Catalonia to France". However, the authorities are sounding the alarm above all about behaviour inside the French borders: family reunions, postponed for months, are now causing a new increase in cases, and it is feared that the relaxed holiday atmosphere will nullify the efforts made during the lockdown.

The World Health Organisation says it is "concerned" about the rise in the number of infections in ***Europe, with*** three million cases and a death toll of 206,000, and new precautions are being taken by other ***European*** countries. Germany will offer free tests to people returning from holidays in countries judged to be at risk (a much longer list than France's), and those who refuse will then have to stay at home for a fortnight. Starting today, Norway will impose a 10-day quarantine for anyone arriving from Spain, and in Britain - the worst-hit ***European*** country with 45,000 victims, where masks have been compulsory since yesterday in enclosed spaces - Prime Minister Boris Johnson is beginning to campaign in favour of the flu vaccine and against Covid (if and when it becomes available): "There are all these 'no vax' people, they are crazy," said Johnson during a visit to a London medical centre.

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[***"A plan without ideologies We must act quickly"; Letter from the secretary of the PD***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-904G-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 1322 words

**Byline:** Nicola Zingaretti

**Body**

What happened in Brussels gives us, in a very difficult moment, a determined ***Europe***, with clear ideas, willing to change to be stronger and closer to the people and with a renewed united vision on the economic front between Germany, France and Italy.

The result of the negotiations, with the provision not only of loans for the Member States but also of a significant amount of donated funds, offers our country a unique and unrepeatable opportunity to redesign a "new model of sustainable development for future generations" from the ground up. This is combined with a context in which the pandemic has greatly accelerated macroeconomic and social trends that have been underway for years, giving us a new world order characterised by new and in part irreversible habits of life and consumption, which must lead to a profound rethink of economic and production models.

The challenge now facing us is to make the most of these opportunities. To do so, we need to place the real drivers of development at the centre of this new growth model: people. It is only by enabling young and old to express their true potential to the full that Italy will be able to embark on a hoped-for new season of growth for the country. To do this, we need to invest rapidly in concrete projects on the enabling factors for economic development, such as the digital, logistics and energy platforms; on areas that are decisive for human development and social inclusion, such as training, culture and health; and finally on key sectors of the country that are innovatively oriented towards new models of 'responsible' consumption, born and accelerated by the pandemic, capable of driving stable growth and employment.

It is necessary to aim for the creation of a state-of-the-art digital platform in Italy, which will transform the country by making it more connected, competitive and secure. This can only be done by integrating all the latest generation technologies (fibre optics, 5G, data centres and the cloud), providing a driving force for new forms of work, healthcare and training, and protecting constitutional rights in the new digital era. A more connected country could, for example, open up new frontiers of development for inland areas, bringing them back to the centre of the productive world at low cost. The public administration will also have to undertake a digital transformation, becoming simpler, more accessible and transparent in its relations with citizens, starting with payments. This will meet the many demands of citizens, administrators and businesses: not to leave the territories to their own devices and to fight against 'bad' bureaucracy.

It is also necessary to launch a major plan for the renewal of the logistics and transport platform, with an integrated approach to roads, ports, airports and rail transport. Italy can and must be the gateway to ***Europe*** from the Mediterranean and developing countries through a widespread, cutting-edge port and airport network. This must be complemented by a safe, modern road and rail network that exploits the possibilities offered by innovation, such as sensors and autonomous mobility, supports intermodality and links up Italy's main backbones. Clearly, this will have to be done with respect for the environment at the centre, paying attention to sustainable mobility, starting with electric mobility. Italy's role in the Mediterranean can also be relaunched by regaining a central economic and productive role.

Italy must become an international model of reference on the issues of energy transition and circular economy, creating a sustainable energy platform capable of fostering green transformation and ensuring economic development. It is therefore necessary to launch an energy plan focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency - starting with public buildings - and the circular economy. The modernisation of the water network, particularly in the south.

In order to promote development and social inclusion, the country has a unique opportunity to promote a renewal of the school and health system in the light of the new needs made more evident than ever by the current health and economic crisis. Here too, it is essential to adopt an integrated approach that combines investment in the modernisation of school and health buildings with the promotion of service models based on innovative technologies (telemedicine, distance learning).

Finally, it is necessary to promote the reconversion of our economy towards the most innovative sectors and technologies, in which our country can play a leading role. It is necessary to invest in those industrial sectors that constitute a natural accelerator of development, favouring as much as possible the growth in size of companies, so as to be ready for the new challenge of transnational aggregations at ***European*** level that will inevitably open up soon. This is essential to maintain an adequate supervision of the sectors and employment levels in our country. This is the case for mechanics, which is affected by new robotics technologies; agritech, which can relaunch the Italian agricultural supply chain by guaranteeing food traceability and innovation in production processes; the maritime economy, in which our country - due to its history and geographical position - can play a leading role in technological innovation, both in the food and raw materials fields; pharmaceuticals, which will have to cope with the progressive ageing of the population and the pandemics associated with the globalisation of flows of people and goods; and the space economy, in which Italy already boasts international excellence.

The Italian venture capital ecosystem, as a lever of widespread development, can further foster this process, creating jobs and innovation even outside the traditional industrial districts. The new ways of enjoying tourism and culture are, in this sense, a further example of the opportunities offered by the digital revolution for Italy's excellence.

The Next Generation must very much see women as protagonists, with resources earmarked for equality policies. We need Italy, we can finally change course and use tens of billions of ***euros*** by investing in the work of women and girls, on their study paths, supporting the participation of women in degrees in scientific-technological disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), with attention to the gender impact. It is necessary to act quickly, deciding quickly and overcoming useless ideological positions. The government should choose the best tools to ensure maximum speed of execution, only in this way, with a vision and new policies, can new 'good work' be created.

Only if we are able to respond quickly and concretely to these challenges will we be able to say that Next Generation ***EU*** will not only have been a successful experiment for ***Europe***, but an operational renaissance plan for Italy. We can leave young people a better Italy than the one we have found, that is the real challenge we face at this moment in history. \* Secretary of the Democratic Party

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The word

recovery fund

This is the ***European*** aid package for economic recovery following the pandemic. It amounts to ***EUR*** 750 billion, which will be disbursed in two ways: 390 in the form of grants and 360 as loans. In both

cases Italy will be the biggest beneficiary

750 billion

of ***euro***

the value of ***european*** aid for recovery: 390 grants and 360 loans

208 billion

of ***euro***

It is the quota

aid that Italy will receive, of which 81 as grants and 127 in loans

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[***Marieke Schouten's tolerant Holland; New faces***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F6-1R61-F13X-9062-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

25 July 2020 Saturday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** LETTERS TO THE COURIER; Page 31

**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** Paolo Lepri

**Body**

In the Netherlands there is not only Mark Rutte, the prime minister who, instead of fighting to impose a link between ***European*** aid and respect for the rule of law (a proposal shelved at the Brussels summit, to the delight of the cliques in Budapest and Warsaw), preferred to fight against "spendthrift" Italy. We were saying that Rutte is not the only one. Holland is also Marieke Schouten, councillor of Nieuweigen, south of Utrecht, who personally went to cover with a rainbow poster the sign indicating the twinning between her city and the Polish Pulawy, recently declared "gay-free" area. It was the city council, with twenty-six votes to one, that decided to sever relations with the former twins after more than twenty years, having become homophobic in homage to President Andrzej Duda's proclamations that have now infected about a third of the territory of a country where the writer Witold Gombrowicz, author of the immense Ferdydurke and Pornography, would be turning in his grave if he were not buried in Vence, in the Alpes-Maritimes.

"Declaring yourself a gay-free zone is a serious problem: it is not acceptable. We are a rainbow city and we are both part of a ***Europe*** where we believe that everyone, regardless of their orientation, has the right to be present in public space,' says Marieke Schouten, who was born in North Brabant (in the Land of Heusden and Altena, (in the Land of Heusden and Altena, a river island at the mouth of the Rhine and Meuse rivers), is 56 years old, is a member of the eco-socialist GroenLinks party (Green Left, 10.9% at the 2019 ***European elections***) and worked for a long time with humanitarian organisations in Nepal and other crisis areas before returning home. She now runs a centre that studies the psychological damage of those involved in traumatic events: police officers, veterans, refugees. She has remained attached ('a very intense experience') to her work in international emergencies and conflicts. But she never thought she would have to devote her forces to limiting the consequences of another modern war, the one unleashed by the champions of intolerance. "My vision is of a society where everyone can live". These sound like obvious words. Unfortunately they are not.

@Paolo\_Lepri

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Civil Rights (94%); Politics (92%); Minority Groups (88%); Human Rights Violations (80%); ***European*** Union (73%); Communities + Neighborhoods (69%); Human Rights (68%); Hunger In Society (64%); Families + Children (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Appointments EUrevolt against Merkel***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K275-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 4

**Length:** 627 words

**Byline:** Ivo Caizzi

**Highlight:** Part of the Popular Party challenges the Chancellor. But Timmermans regains support for Commission after overnight summit

**Body**

BRUSSELS

An uprising in the People's Party and the four eastern Visegrád countries has put the brakes on the candidacy of Socialist Vice-President of the ***European*** Commission, Dutchman Frans Timmermans, as the institution's next number one to replace outgoing Luxembourger Jean-Claude Juncker. But at the Council of 28 ***EU*** heads of state and government in Brussels, extended overnight to agree on the presidents of the Commission, the Council of Governments, the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB), the ***Europarliament***, and the ***EU***'s foreign chief, a mediation by Bulgarian Prime Minister Boris Borisov then tried to salvage the "package" with the Dutchman, who is also liked by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the presidency of the ***Europarliament*** to his compatriot and fellow ***Europarty member*** Manfred Weber.

"It will not be very easy to take decisions," Merkel admitted already as she entered the summit. French President Emmanuel Macron of the RE Liberals even reduced the negotiations to "three names", postponing "the one for the ECB a little later" and the solution for the ***EU*** Chamber. "For me it is important to avoid an inter-institutional conflict between the Council and the Parliament," Merkel explained, referring to ***MEPs***' willingness to defend the Spitzenkandidat system, the candidates of the two largest parties, Weber of the Popular (EPP) and Timmermans for the Socialists (S&D), who presented themselves at the ***European*** elections as Juncker's successors. The EPP had more seats and, therefore, Weber should have prevailed over the Dutchman. But, for the first time, the EPP and S&D needed the RE Liberals and maybe also the Greens to make a majority. At four, Weber remained in the minority. At the G20 summit in Osaka, the Polish president of the ***EU*** Council Donald Tusk, after meetings with Merkel, Macron and the Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez, mediated the "package" with Timmermans at the Commission and Weber at the head of the ***Europarliament***. But Hungarian Prime Minister Vicktor Orbán, who has been accused by Timmermans of violations of the rule of law in Hungary and responded by challenging the Dutchman's known relations with George Soros, called the possible appointment a "historic mistake". The other three Visegrád premiers (Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia) and, at a distance, vice-premier Matteo Salvini supported Orbán. But, above all, other popular leaders rejected Timmermans. "As EPP we did not approve the Osaka package," said Irish premier Leo Vardkar. ***Europarliament*** president Antonio Tajani said he continues to "support the principle of the Spitzenkandidat and Weber's candidacy" for the post-Juncker post.

The summit continued past two in the morning with an uncertain outcome. The three or four parties of the future majority in the ***EU*** Chamber must be satisfied. It is necessary to respect the balance between large and small countries, as well as those in the North, South and East. In addition, there are the "pink quotas". Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte met separately with Merkel, Macron and the four Visegrad leaders. He pointed out legal doubts about the principle of the Spitzenkandidat and to have "free hands" for the choice.

He aims to get one of the ***EU*** commissioners "with an economic portfolio of weight", to be decided later. He has also sought alliances to avoid the risk of an ***EU*** infringement procedure for high debt, offering in return support in the usual 'cow market' for ***Euronomies***, where the competence and skills of candidates are often overlooked.

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The scheme

Angela Merkel's plan for the ***EU*** presidents' appointments included Frans Timmermans at the Commission, Manfred Weber at the Parliament, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel at the Council

and François Villeroy de Galhau at the ECB

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**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (88%); Politics (80%); Economic Policy (74%); Embargoes + Sanctions (64%); Fines + Penalties (64%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***a model to be revised***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K28G-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** IDEAS & OPINIONS; Page 22

**Length:** 884 words

**Byline:** Maurizio Ferrera

**Body**

The choice of who will occupy the highest ***EU*** posts is one of the most delicate moments in the ***European*** political process. The outcome depends on the balance of power between governments and party groups in the new Parliament, which will have to approve the Council's proposals. However, the daily tototo-names distracts attention from the questions that really matter to citizens: what will change for the strategy of the ***European Union as a*** whole? Will the chosen figures (their ideas, experience and expertise) be up to the challenges?

The last decade has subjected the ***EU to*** a truly unprecedented sequence of financial, economic and social shocks. The so-called '***European*** model' has been shaken to its foundations. There are two deep fractures in the model today. The first is within the various countries and concerns inequalities. First and foremost, between the better-off and the more vulnerable. But also those between young and old: the former (including children) are today the group most at risk of poverty.

T he second divide runs along territorial borders, pitting the economically stronger Member States against the weaker ones. The gap has widened over time and is particularly marked between North and South. The Eastern European countries are also beginning to feel the consequences of the depletion of human capital due to the "flight" of their workers to old ***Europe***.

The ***EU*** has withstood the financial shock, an outcome that was not a foregone conclusion at the height of the debt crisis between 2011 and 2012. However, the risk of shipwreck has aroused resentment and mutual distrust among the various governments. The logic of national interests has thus weakened efforts to repair and strengthen the common house, correcting its construction defects. The double fracture (especially the one between countries) is also the result of serious shortcomings in the macroeconomic and social governance mechanisms of the Union, in particular of the ***eurozone***.

On 20 June, the Heads of State and Government set out an agenda of priorities and guidelines for the next five years. The re-launch of the ***European*** model appears as a central objective. It talks about growth and employment, security and protection of citizens, environmental sustainability (a wise addition, considering the challenges of climate change). On social issues, the agenda essentially focuses on the first divide. It is important that the Council should consider inequality and poverty as a pathology, a risk that is not only economic and social but also political. What is worrying, however, is the reticence about differences between countries. If this second divide is not healed, the Union (and with it the ***European*** model) cannot survive for long.

The social market economy - the combination of free competition and welfare, within the framework of the rule of law and democracy - is a system that cannot be "unpacked" at will. The ***eurozone*** has unified markets and currencies, but has left welfare under the responsibility of individual countries. Social protection risks becoming a mere handmaiden of fiscal and competitiveness imperatives.

Towards the end of the 19th century, ***Europe*** invented a revolutionary principle: the sharing of certain risks (old age, invalidity, unemployment, disability, sickness) between occupational groups and territorial areas, so as to guarantee protection and cohesion without compromising market logic. Social insurance was an ingenious response to the challenges of the industrial revolution and mass democracy. Today, the ***EU*** must apply the same principle to itself, inaugurating forms of collective sharing of those risks that are closely linked to participation in the ***euro*** or the ***EU in*** general: for example, the occurrence of sudden employment or migration shocks affecting one or more countries in an asymmetrical manner.

In past years, progress in this direction has been blocked by resistance and misunderstandings between governments. It has often been said that citizens (voters, taxpayers) in different countries are not ready to 'share'. This is not the case. This is not only indicated by opinion polls, but also by the electoral programmes of those parties that are now preparing to form the new majority in the ***European*** Parliament: socialists and democrats, greens and, albeit more timidly, populars and liberals. The emphasis on social issues and the need for pan-European solidarity has been the highest ever. Even the sovereignists talk about sharing, even if they want it in different spheres (Salvini for immigration, Orbán for cohesion policies).

The test for the figures who will preside over the supranational institutions in the next five years will be precisely the contrast of differences between countries. The sharing of common risks has been one of the main pillars of the twentieth-century ***European*** model, in its national variations. The time has come to use this pillar to support the integration process as such. The '***EU*** model' can no longer do without it.

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Appointments Will the chosen figures (their ideas and expertise) be up to the challenges?

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Growth (82%); Politics (82%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (73%); Immigration (67%); Gross Domestic Product (63%)

**Industry:** Budgets (62%)

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**End of Document**

[***FUNDS EUROPEAN FUNDSUSING THEM FOR WELFARE; The editorial***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2F3-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

IMPRESATORINO Edition

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**Section:** ENTERPRISE TURIN; Page 10

**Length:** 580 words

**Byline:** Mario Calderini

**Body**

It is excellent news that the programming of ***European*** funds is so high on President Cirio's agenda. In the total absence of central government, it is up to the regions to imagine a development policy hypothesis and perhaps even to plan multi-regional alliances that try to rebuild a decent national strategy from the bottom up. In order to do this, ***European*** resources are the only ones really available, and it is therefore a good thing that the Council is focusing on them.

With a few caveats, however. The first is that the use of ***European*** funds is a means and not an end. This sounds obvious, but perhaps not so obvious if we have been talking for years about "pull" measures and have judged the different political seasons on the basis of the percentage of funds spent, disregarding quality and impact.

If the funds are a means, the ends must be made explicit, regardless of contingent instrumentality, and it would be very important for them to derive from a strategic planning exercise, at least every three years, which starts from a vision of what Piedmont should and could be in ten years' time, as Friuli and Lombardy have recently done. The second is that the only way to avoid a generic and useless expenditure is to build an evidence-based policy, i.e. based on facts and well-instrumented analyses and not on an endless series of consultations with the most varied and obsolete forms of representation, which end up transforming ***European*** planning into a meaningless list of small interests. This, too, requires a high, long and inspired vision.

In 2007, the backdrop was a ***Europe*** that seemed destined for prosperity, while in 2013 the backdrop was the rubble of the crisis. Today, we are faced with growing individual, social and territorial inequalities that produce anger and institutional disintegration, fuelled by the last, by those who feel they have lost.

continued on page II

In this scenario, the real challenge of ***European*** programming is to design policies for competitiveness that are also policies to combat inequalities. Not one and the other, but one together with the other, inseparably, and one at the service of the other. Programming welfare and competitiveness together is the only option for sustainable growth, and it is within this perimeter that we must seek the insight that will give a high and organic meaning to the use of ***European*** funds in this region. The so-called Social Pillar identifies the highly competitive social market economy, which aims at full employment and social progress, as the fundamental instrument with which to pursue an inclusive growth model. It is no coincidence that InvestEU, the former Junker plan, which brings together ***EU*** funding in the form of loans and guarantees in a single programme, includes a very important ***EUR*** 4 billion 'social window'. The current political and administrative organisation of the regions is the exact opposite of what is needed to win it and should be rethought. It is therefore not surprising that the objective of integrated programming of the main instruments, ERDF (competitiveness policies) and ESF (social policies), has historically been a resounding failure of the Italian regions. Instead, the integration of funds and policies is the crucial step to build a new generation of growth and innovation policies in Piedmont that are inclusive rather than divisive.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Land Use + Development (78%); Communities + Neighborhoods (71%); Agriculture Regulation + Policy (68%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (62%); Economic Policy (61%)

**Industry:** Agriculture (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***The Daphne case brings the Maltese government under pressure from Europe.Europe; edited by Ivo Caizzi***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2HD-00000-00&context=) [***icaizzi@corriere.it***](mailto:icaizzi@corriere.it) [***Offshore***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2HD-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 30

**Length:** 393 words

**Highlight:** Independent enquiry needed into murdered investigative reporter's death

**Body**

Malta's economic and institutional leaders have come under fire from the Council of ***Europe in*** Strasbourg as part of the Maltese authorities' controversial investigation into the murder of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. In a damning report that raises serious doubts about respect for the rule of law on the tax haven Mediterranean island, the ***European*** institution, which is committed to defending citizens' fundamental rights, puts pressure on the government of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. In the text, which contains a long list of objections, even "the failure of the police to question the Minister of the Economy Chris Cardona on the hypothesis of contacts with the suspects" stands out, that is to say, with those indicted as alleged perpetrators of the murder with a bomb in the car of Caruana Galizia, who was the journalist most committed to exposing corruption and money laundering in Malta. Also cited by the Council of ***Europe*** are Energy Minister Konrad Mizzi, Keith Schembri, a close collaborator of the premier, and even the local anti-money laundering body (for violations identified by the ***European*** Banking Authority). There is also a "protest by the director of the ***European*** body ***Europol*** on the collaboration with the Maltese police on the case" of the murdered journalist.

On this basis, the Council of ***Europe*** "asks Malta to implement within three months an independent public enquiry to ensure compliance with the ***European*** Convention on Human Rights". Muscat, who has ruled out his government's involvement in the Daphne case, said he wanted to "cooperate" with the Strasbourg-based body, not wanting to get on a "collision course with ***European*** institutions", but that he had to first check with experts the risk of "prejudicing the ongoing criminal proceedings" with other investigative activities.

Caruana Galizia's family, on the other hand, considered the independent public enquiry useful in identifying not only those responsible but also possible instigators. The whole affair is being followed closely by the EU institutions in Brussels. This is also because Malta is already under pressure from the ***EU*** for the controversial sale of passports to wealthy suspicious non-EU citizens, who can then freely circulate and do business in the other 27 member states.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Civil Rights (74%); Human Rights Violations (74%); Money Laundering (74%); Criminal Offenses (67%)

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[***bankitalia draghi's defence; Economy Politics the project***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2G7-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 4

**Length:** 1047 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight:** Appointments, quotas and reserves: the ECB president's letter to Parliament on the ownership of the central institute dismantles the assumptions of the proposals of the Giverde majority. There is a risk of undermining the autonomy of top management, causing damage to shareholders' balance sheets and violating ***EU*** rules on public accounts once again

**Body**

Anyone interested in understanding the state of relations between Italy and the rest of the ***European Union*** should read a document signed by Mario Draghi on 24 June. It is an opinion that the president of the ***European*** Central Bank sent to the Chamber of Deputies on the bill presented by some members of the majority "on the ownership structure of the Bank of Italy" and on the latter's role in the management of reserves, in particular gold reserves worth around ***€90*** billion. The ECB's opinion is not binding, but is of a legal nature and is very precise - as much as it is concerned - on some delicate points for the balance of power in Italy. From the merits of Draghi's words, rather than from the tone, it is clear that a dull friction between institutions on the role and control of the Bank of Italy is not a risk for the future. It is already a reality. There are many things at stake: the balance of power in Italy between elected authorities that represent the will of the people and independent authorities that ensure weights and counterweights to any possible abuse of power; the country's position in the ***euro***; and finally, the stability and capital of a large part of the financial system that - as the ECB notes - risks being expropriated.

Independence

This is probably just a taste of what is to come in the next few months, if and when a further bill on the appointment system and the definition of the statute of the Central Bank goes ahead. But as a taste, it is an important morsel. The points made by the legal note signed by Draghi are numerous and go to the substance of the functions of the Bank of Italy. For example, the ECB writes: "It is important that two paragraphs (1 and 2) of Article 5 of Law 133 of 2013, approved during the government of Enrico Letta, are not repealed", as provided for by the proposed law under examination. Those two paragraphs prevent that the assembly of the participants in the capital of the Bank of Italy and the High Council of the institution can interfere in the functions of the top management and indicate the requirements for co-optation in the same High Council: "Independence, integrity and professionalism".

According to the ECB, abolishing those two principles would make the BoI vulnerable to external interference, including from politics. Firstly, the risk is present because "independence" would no longer be a prerequisite for those co-opted into the Board of Governors. Above all, however, if the law were to be approved in its current form, the shareholders' meeting could interfere in the choices of the Bank of Italy - even those to be made in Frankfurt - at a time when the same law put forward by the majority in Italy provides for the transfer of capital from banks and other private institutions to the Treasury. In other words, Frankfurt points out that the current version of the proposed reform on quotas opens the way for the influence of politics on the Bank of Italy. "In general," reads the document signed by Draghi, "the ECB urges the Italian authorities to carefully assess the possible effects of the proposed law on the ownership structure of the Bank of Italy on the independence of the institution itself as enshrined in the ***European*** Treaty".

Quotas

One controversial aspect, according to Draghi, concerns the value at which the Bank of Italy's capital holdings should pass from the current private shareholders to the government. The current set-up is an evolution of the 1936 reform, which involved the banks themselves in the capital of the issuing institution. Today, in the light of the 2013 reorganisation, the banks hold shares of ***€25***,000 each in a capital with an estimated nominal value of €7.5 billion. These shares give them the right to participate in the subdivision, at most, of 6% of annual profits (the rest goes as a dividend to the Treasury, because Banca d'Italia remains an institution under public law); but no shareholder can hold more than 3% and the rights of direction of the shareholders' meeting are effectively cancelled by the articles that the current majority bill seeks to repeal. In essence, the quota system in force serves to give substance to the banks' assets, not to govern the central institution.

Now, the reform put in place by the majority envisages a change. The Ministry of the Economy would have to buy the shares from the banks "at the nominal value of one thousand lire" each (equal to 0.51 ***euro***). In other words, a capital currently on the banks' books for 7.5 billion would pass to the State for 150 thousand ***euro***, thus inflicting an erosion on the institutions' assets. Presented in this way, the operation seems very similar to an expropriation. The ECB notes: "The above-mentioned purchase price (...) deserves attention from the Italian authorities in terms of property rights".

Gold and currency reserves

Then there are the issues related to reserves. The draft law under consideration stipulates that the Bank of Italy manages and holds the gold reserves "exclusively as a deposit" and that ownership of the foreign exchange reserves passes from the balance sheet of the institution to the State. The ECB opposes both of these steps. The legal note asks that the reference to "exclusive depository status" be dropped, because the Bank of Italy is not merely the depository but the plenipotentiary manager of the Republic's gold: the protection of this heritage from the aims of politics is at stake. Furthermore, in the bill, the transfer of official reserves in dollars, yen or pounds sterling to the direct ownership of the State would also be illegal because it would be equivalent to "monetary financing" of the government by the central bank (which is prohibited by the ***European*** Treaty).

In the meantime, another bill has already arrived giving the government and parliament the power to change the statute of the Bank of Italy and appoint all its top management. More criticism from the ECB is therefore likely. What is happening? Some politicians have certainly reacted to the fact that they have had to endure unwelcome appointments to the central bank's board in recent months. Whether it will become an open institutional conflict, in Italy and in ***Europe,*** we will understand very soon.

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**Subject:** Central Banks (94%); National Debt (87%); Securities + Other Investments (78%); Public Debt (76%); Heads Of State + Government (63%)

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[***"My country has done little to help Italy Don't give moral lessons"; The interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K27G-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** from our correspondent Paolo Valentino

**Highlight:** Otto Schily: Carola's action is a gift to Salvini Former minister 'The question is whether a private individual can take people and force a state to take them in'

**Body**

BERLIN

A voice out of the chorus. That of Otto Schily, the social-democratic lawyer who has always been a champion of the rule of law, but also of state law, and who was Minister of the Interior in the red-green government of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Schily speaks to us from Tuscany, for him a place of the spirit, which for decades he has made his second home.

Is Carola Rackete, the Sea Watch captain, a heroine or a criminal?

"Neither one nor the other. She is certainly not a criminal. And of course one can only praise her efforts to save lives. And one can only agree with those who say that saving lives is not a crime. But the question is another one, completely different: whether a private individual can take people on board at sea and then force a country to take them in".

Carola Rackete violated Italian law by forcibly docking in Lampedusa.

"Of course. Here we enter into the concrete modalities of his attempt. His was a risky manoeuvre, which endangered the life of the crew of an Italian patrol boat. This cannot be ignored. And although I find the captain's arrest exaggerated, I believe that the opening of criminal proceedings against her was inevitable, the same thing would have happened in Germany."

How do you judge the action on the political level?

"I do not find it very intelligent to provoke the current Minister of the Interior by saying that he has to "get in line". Having said that, it is well known that I am not a supporter of Matteo Salvini, on the contrary I identify myself with the line-up that opposes him in Italy, that of the left, and I consider the policies of the League to be wrong and dangerous. But actions such as Carola Rackete's are a gift to Salvini, intended to help him and increase his consensus'.

But the German authorities defended the Sea Watch captain.

"I think it's wrong that the Germans are setting themselves up as moral masters in ***Europe***. In particular towards Italy, which is in a very problematic situation on the immigration front. For years Germany, but not only Germany, has done little or nothing to help Italy and to foster a ***European*** consensus on a reasonable common migration policy. Italy has one of the greatest migration experiences in the ***European Union*** and certainly cannot be considered a country hostile to foreigners'.

But what is to be done with illegal immigrants, who take to the sea with the help of criminal gangs?

"Of course you can't let them die in the Mediterranean. The problem is what to do after rescuing them. You cannot bring them to ***Europe***. Otherwise it becomes a vicious circle. You have to find a solution first, in the countries of origin or final transit, where you have to be able to identify people. There is no solution yet, but we have to work on it and look for it together: the ***European Union***, the countries involved, the United Nations. But actions like this don't work, to look like heroes in front of international public opinion".

Should NGOs have a role?

"I do not question the goodness of their principles. But one cannot just set oneself the problem of collecting people at sea, without thinking about what one will do next. Salvation at sea is a task for states and possibly the ***European Union***, not for private organisations. The great social issue of migration will not be resolved by private actions, which are to be commended.

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**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Human Rights Violations (87%); ***European*** Union (81%); Politics (81%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

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[***And Conte breaks away from Salvini: 'I choose, my hands are free'; The scenario***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K278-00000-00&context=)

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1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 5

**Length:** 836 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight:** The Prime Minister stops the leghist line. Berlin-Paris agreement also falters, frost between the capitals

**Body**

Who decides for Italy is one of the many enigmas that make every choice so complex, including appointments, in a ***Europe*** reduced to an archipelago in which progress is made without a compass. The leader of the first party and vice-premier, Matteo Salvini, rarely goes to Brussels and just as rarely meets the leaders of the rest of the ***European Union***. Giuseppe Conte is the opposite: he is very often in Brussels, he has built up a personal relationship with many of his peers, but in Rome he does not sit in parliament and has no party behind him.

With these premises, it was a matter of time before the contrast exploded. It happened yesterday. Conte refused to comply with Salvini's pre-emptive rejection of the only name on the table for the presidency of the ***European*** Commission: Frans Timmermans, socialist and Dutch: "My hands are free, I don't come here with an attitude of veto but of dialogue". Instead, the PM wanted to negotiate his assent to the candidate's approach on Italy's accounts. He also knows that the names that could emerge in the coming days to replace the Dutchman are decidedly more inflexible arbiters: the Danish liberal Margrethe Vestager, the French centrist Michel Barnier, the popular Bulgarian Kristalina Georgieva. For now, the current Commission of Jean-Claude Juncker and his deputy Timmermans are demanding that the Italian government make formal commitments today on how it will limit the deficit in 2020. This will allow the current threat of proceedings to be set aside. But in November a new Commission will take up the promises made in Rome in recent days and compare them with the budget in black and white. By then a reasonable man like Timmermans could be sorely missed.

After all, with the elections on 26 May, ***Europe*** did not change in the way that the nationalists south and east of the Alps promised. They did not win, but ***Europe did*** undergo a metamorphosis around that date. The ***European Union*** no longer lives in yesterday's world. Not so much because bringing this geographical, political and institutional model archipelago back to unity is increasingly a puzzle. Above all, unlike in the past, no one at the centre is able to guarantee balance any more.

How the heart of the system is changing is shown by the transformation of the first group in the ***Europarliament, the European*** People's Party. It was the big loser in the last elections with the Socialists and Democrats (S&D), having lost 5% of the votes. Among ***Europeans*** under the age of 30, it is no longer the most voted party for the first time. But perhaps even more noticeable is the fact that its internal balance is changing in a way that makes this force almost unrecognisable. Two terms ago, the Germans, Italians, French and Spaniards were the backbone of everything, with 129 popular ***MEPs.*** In the last legislature, the centrist and western backbone had already fallen to 90 seats; in this one it is only 56. The handful of Germans from the Cdu and Csu now find a balance with the centrist delegations from Poland or Romania and even the radical right-wing delegation from Hungary: as of this month they count more than those from founding states such as France or Italy. It is no coincidence that yesterday, at the EPP meeting, it was precisely the eastern delegations that unravelled the agreement Angela Merkel had woven days earlier. Some have openly accused her of "betrayal", because by opening up to the socialist Timmermans she would have thought above all of keeping her grand coalition alive in Berlin.

Around the Chancellor, the political core of ***Europe*** is no longer what it was. The relationship between the capitals, which in the past were able to make everything fall into place, is also deeply intertwined. Between Merkel and Emmanuel Macron there are no longer any simple misunderstandings. In recent weeks, the relationship between the German leader and the French president has deteriorated into an exchange of barely concealed insults, the most obvious one three weeks ago. In the midst of the standoff over appointments, Macron publicly launched Merkel's candidacy for Commission president without consulting her: for the French president it was a way of inducing her German colleague to refuse, thus sinking the candidacy of the popular German Manfred Weber, whom Germany supports. Merkel only said she was "saddened" that her word was not taken seriously when she said she did not want a post in Brussels.

The Franco-German engine is no longer turning, gripped by mutual distrust. It can no longer keep up with a convoy that has obvious attempts at rebellion in more than one carriage: Poland and Hungary, which want to be able to bend democracy to an illiberal model without Brussels having a say; Italy, whose public debt is increasingly seen as the greatest threat to financial stability in ***Europe***.

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Francs shooters

5 years

The duration of the mandate of the ***European*** Commission,

the executive body

and promoter

of the legislative process

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); ***European*** Union (76%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (69%); Heads Of State + Government (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

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[***Procedure, Prime Minister 'confident' but flat tax still an unknown factor***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K279-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 6

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** Enrico Marro

**Highlight:** Salvini: I'll stay if I cut taxes. Conte takes time: I guarantee a wide-ranging tax reform The summit After Brussels, today the budget adjustment at the centre of the Council of Ministers The deficit The government aims to reduce the 2019 deficit from the 2.4% indicated in the Defence Document to 2.1%.

**Body**

BRUSSELS Formally there is no question of it, everyone, from the president of the ***EU*** Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, to the Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, repeated, arriving last night at the ***European*** Council meeting, because on the agenda of the summit between the heads of state and government of the Union there are appointments to the heads of the ***European*** institutions.

But the question of the infringement procedure for excessive debt, which the commission considers justified against Italy, is for our country a heavy stone summoner in all the bilateral and other meetings that engage Conte during the night. The Prime Minister arrives in Brussels convinced that the intense work done at the G20 in Osaka in recent days has laid the groundwork for avoiding the procedure. Tomorrow the Commission will decide whether to propose it to Ecofin, which will then take a decision on 9 July. In the middle is the Brussels ***European*** Council, and the decisions that will be taken this evening in Rome by the Council of Ministers, whose agenda will include the budget adjustment bill. For the Italian government, it is a question of combining the political level, finding allies in ***Europe***, and the technical level, providing the necessary assurances on the improvement of public accounts.

On the political level, it is no coincidence that Conte has shown himself to be very open to the nomination game. He has not vetoed any candidate, in order to have more cards to play. On a technical level, the budget adjustment that will be approved today, perhaps accompanied by a report, should give substance to the improvement of public accounts, certifying that the deficit will be around 2.1% of GDP this year and no longer 2.4%, as forecast in the Def (Economic and Financial Document). And this despite the fact that the economy will grow less than expected. The result is due, on the one hand, to savings on quota 100 and citizenship income (about 3 billion) and, on the other, to higher revenues (about 1.5 billion thanks to electronic invoicing). The picture is completed by 2 billion euro of public spending that the government had already committed to the commission to freeze in case of need and the higher dividends for a couple of billion from Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Banca d'Italia. A total of 8-9 billion that, according to the government, should prove that there are no problems for 2019. Which remain instead for 2020. It is true that some of the savings and higher revenues in 2019 will be carried over into subsequent years. For example, the 3 billion for quota 100 and citizenship income could become 5-6 billion in 2020 (considering that this year the two measures came into force between March and April). Similarly, the increase in VAT receipts should consolidate with the implementation of electronic receipts.

However, all this is not enough to reassure the Commission, for which two things are important: that no deficit measures are taken and that public debt does not increase further. On the first front, the problem comes from the flat tax. Salvini would like to launch this measure as soon as possible, whatever it costs (at least €12-15 billion): "If I can cut taxes I'll stay in government, otherwise I'll go to the mountain pastures to make ricotta cheese. On debt, the problem stems from the fact that the commitments made on divestment and privatisation (***€18*** billion per year) are proving very difficult to achieve. Conte and Economy Minister Giovanni Tria are mediating and looking for solutions. The Prime Minister prefers to speak of a "broad tax reform" rather than a flat tax, although he promises to start the discussion soon. But it is clear that if the design he has in mind is broad, the timeframe will not be short. From Brussels, Conte has spoken several times with Salvini himself and with M5S leader Luigi Di Maio. He is increasingly a mediator at home and on the international scene.

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Fronts

Deficit

and excessive debt

Italy risks infringement proceedings by the ***EU*** for violating its obligations under EU law. In particular, this concerns the budget deficit, which must not exceed 3% of GDP, and public debt, which must not exceed 60% of GDP.

1

The Commission's requests

In order to avoid infringement proceedings, the ***European*** Commission has asked the Italian government to make precise commitments for 2020 to contain public debt, in addition to the budget adjustment promised for 2019.

2

A manoeuvre

20-30 billion

Italy's public debt currently stands at around 2,300 billion ***euros,*** or 132% of our gross domestic product. To be in line with the rules, the government would have to implement a 20-30 billion budget manoeuvre next year.

3

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Public Debt (87%); Economic Growth (76%); Gross Domestic Product (74%); Economic Policy (65%)

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[***matteo and taxes the american lesson; Political Economy the ideas on taxation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2GJ-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 13

**Length:** 1109 words

**Byline:** Nicola Rossi

**Highlight:** Salvini issued ultimatum on flat tax after trip to Washington and recalling Trump's tax reform. Let's try to continue the comparison: will we have less debt? No, the cure is not to reduce tax rates by getting further into debt. Will we get a bigger boost for Italian production? No. If anything, we risk making the countries we import from happy. Every expansionary deficit manoeuvre translates into more purchases from our main commercial partners Unlike the US, in Italy an increase in the deficit is likely to trigger an increase in interest rates.

**Body**

"Italy needs a courageous fiscal reform. If they don't let me do it, I'll say goodbye and leave'. So said the League secretary to 'Corriere della Sera'. Well, let's say it straight away: he's right. He's right to raise the tax issue. He's right to call for a comprehensive tax reform. He is right to link his own political prospects to an objective of this importance. I just find it rather strange that he came to these conclusions after a short trip to the United States. There is no need to go to the United States to understand how worn out the fabric of our tax system is. And how necessary and urgent it is not to mend it for the umpteenth time but to try to change it. Indeed, courageously.

So what lesson could the League leader have learned from his visit to Washington? Certainly not the one about the direction of tax reform. In the US case, the big deal was the move in the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, far more than the marginal revision of personal tax rates. As far as corporate tax is concerned, we are already at 24% (and moving towards 20.5% depending on how profits are managed). Hard to think that this is the point.

The US model

The other question then remains: how to cover it. According to Congressional Budget Office assessments (dated 2017), the US tax reform would have led to increases in the public deficit estimated, over a ten-year period, at around 1,500 billion dollars. Now, according to the International Monetary Fund, the ratio of public debt to US gross domestic product - 106.2% at the end of 2017 - stands at 106.9%. At least for the moment, if the US experience teaches anything, it is that debt cannot be cured with debt. But there is, perhaps, more. There are several good reasons - entirely independent of ***European*** rules - to think that in the Italian case the impact on activity levels of a significant tax cut financed in deficit would be so small as to suggest that the game might not be worth the candle. First, the US is a large closed economy, while Italy is a small open economy. The degree of openness of the US economy is about half of ours. Translation: every expansionary deficit manoeuvre translates into more imports from our main trading partners and supports their activity levels as well as ours. The Lega secretary is fond of saying that 'we want to use the Italians' money for the Italians'. This is not exactly the case. As it already happened, for example, in 2014 with the famous "80 ***euros***", with an expansionary manoeuvre in deficit we would use the money of the Italians (who will come) for the Italians (who are there), for the Germans, for the French, and so on. Those who claim that the Minister of the Interior does not know the meaning of the word "solidarity" should think again: we are preparing for an extraordinary act of generosity: to support with the resources of future Italian generations the activity levels of the entire ***eurozone*** even when it is least needed. Perhaps only St Martin would have done the same.

Rates and uncertainty

Second, it is hardly worth noting that our public debt/gross domestic product ratio is significantly higher than its US counterpart. More importantly, it is in all likelihood less sustainable. However crude, the difference between the real cost of debt and the growth rate (again in real terms) is a good indicator of debt sustainability. If positive, it indicates a growing debt even in the presence of public expenditure (net of interest) equal to revenues. If negative, vice versa. Now, in the US case, Charles Wyplosz on "lavoce.info" ("An economist in wonderland", 18 June 2019) reports that in the last sixty years the real growth rate would have been higher than the real interest rate in six out of ten cases. Only in one case out of ten in the Italian case. It should come as no surprise that investors tend to be slightly nervous about rising Italian debt (nor should it come as a surprise that they may ask to be remunerated for that nervousness). In short, unlike in the US, an expansionary deficit manoeuvre in Italy is likely to trigger increases in interest rates that would considerably reduce its impact, perhaps even cancel it out.

Third, unlike in the US, where indicators of economic policy uncertainty have returned to the lowest levels of the last decade, uncertainty still reigns supreme in Italy. We are not at the levels experienced at the end of 2011, but we are not that far from them. In these conditions, "putting money in the pockets of Italians" may simply induce Italians to leave it there, at least for the most part. Also because it cannot be ruled out that sooner or later someone will end up asking for it.

Proposals and courtiers

If, as many people are beginning to think, the ***EU is moving*** towards a more or less severe phase of cyclical slowdown and if - as we are often reminded - the Italian government is aiming at a change in ***European*** rules, it would make sense to design a comprehensive tax reform associated with significant spending cuts (including tax expenditures), to present ***Europe*** with its accounts (really) in order (in terms of both flows and stocks) and to raise the issue of a ***European*** space for countercyclical policies. The only one truly capable of making a difference. For us, perhaps, more than for others.

There is room for this, but only in the abstract for the time being. Demanding a bit of additional flexibility and then translating it into ineffective measures - something we have already experienced - is the attitude of those who have no desire to change ***European*** rules and simply aim to postpone the problems. Our problems, while others are tackling theirs.

Political leaders are not all-knowing. It is quite understandable that they know as little about economics as about anything else. When this happens, however, it is essential that they are able to understand whether the solutions they are presented with are the result of reflection and detached assessment or, rather, the consequence of courtly attitudes and not always very informed thinking.

Brilliant political careers have vanished into thin air for less.

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[***not just trump governments vs. governors the revenge of politics; Economy Politics the nationalist wave***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2G9-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 6

**Length:** 955 words

**Byline:** Danilo Taino

**Highlight:** US president attacks Powell, then calls for Draghi but criticises him. Clash over next ECB chief. Brexit influences choice of successor to Carney for Bank of England. In Rome, tensions over Bankitalia. Central banks are no longer "the only player in town" and their independence is at risk. A return to before the great globalisation

**Body**

Donald Trump has regretted appointing Jerome Powell as chairman of the Federal Reserve. He wishes to have an expansionist central banker like Mario Draghi in his place, but at the same time attacks the ***European*** Central Bank president for manoeuvring to depress the ***euro*** exchange rate for competitive purposes.

In ***Europe, the*** praise for Draghi is multiplying, now that he is very close to the end of his mandate (31 October). But in recent months and years there have been countless criticisms of his determined management of the ECB, from members of the German government as well as those of other countries; and the choice of his successor is the subject of political dispute as never before. In Delhi, the Reserve Bank of India is suffering from a haemorrhage at the top, put under pressure by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's men. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney is often criticised by parliamentarians when he talks about the economic effects of Brexit, and the battle to appoint his successor is on: he too ends his mandate at the end of October. In Italy, bills to tighten political control over the Bank of Italy - and the country's gold - are under discussion.

The siege

What is happening? Are central banks under siege all over the world? Are they no longer "the only game in town" as they were until recently? In parallel with the retreats of globalisation and the return of geopolitics, have governments regained the centrality they had lost? Is the season of independence of governors and monetary authorities that accompanied the liberal - or moderately liberal - phase that began in the 1980s over? Has the paradigm that triumphed during the decades of the 'flat world', without frontiers, changed and now seems not to be able to resist the rise of protectionist barriers, the accelerated activism of the governments of the major powers, the clash for new strategic balances? Certainly, the clash is taking place and the pressure for a new phase is multiplying: in many ways, a return to the 1970s when governments dominated the scene, including the financial and monetary scene.

To be clear: central banks still hold extraordinary power. The response of Western central banks to the 2008 crisis has extended the scope of their intervention into areas never before touched, partly out of objective necessity, partly because of the limitations of governments, particularly in the ***Eurozone***. The result is that, especially following the Quantitative Easing launched, investors have been moving for years much more on the basis of how many securities the monetary authorities decide to buy on the markets than on the basis of the fundamentals of economies and companies. This gives them extraordinary power, which has made central banks the only game in town. It is a power that persists. The framework around them, however, has radically changed since 2008 and the years immediately following.

Trump is the vanguard of this attack on the independence of the monetary authorities. He is continually critical of Powell, whom he nominated to lead the Fed, for raising interest rates and now being slow to change direction. "He doesn't know what he's doing," the president recently claimed, referring to his appointee. "We should have Draghi instead of our person at the Fed," he then said: noting that the ***European*** banker is for stimulating the economy, unlike the American one. Two days earlier, however, Trump had accused Draghi of "unfairly" manipulating the ***euro*** to make it lose value and help ***European*** exports. The White House, in short, would welcome a transatlantic competition of competitive devaluations (it would be a qualitative leap in the trade war already underway).

Trump, however, is not alone in sticking his nose into monetary affairs. In the ***Eurozone,*** the choice of Draghi's replacement has been coloured by an entirely political hue, in which competence is considered but not as the first element (this was not the case eight years ago, when the Italian banker was chosen). In the same way, the frequent attacks on the Bank of Italy are part of movements within the government in Rome and are used to influence the dispute with the ***EU.***

In India, deputy governor Viral Acharya, who last October spoke of the 'potentially catastrophic' effects of the Modi government's moves to influence the Reserve Bank, has just resigned. Six months ago, Governor Urjit Patel had resigned. In 2016, Modi himself had pushed the then governor, the highly respected Raghuram Rajan, not to run for a second term (Rajan is now among the candidates for the leadership of the Bank of England). In London, meanwhile, Carney was described by one of the pro-Brexit leaders, Jacob Rees-Mogg, as 'a creature of the government'.

It is not that politicians suddenly woke up and noticed that governors were taking away their jobs. It is that the emergence of strategic competition between countries has brought the clash of national interests back to the forefront, sacrificing the idea that globalisation was essentially an economic affair - more technical than political - in which capitals and chancelleries had little to say. The climate has completely changed: Trump, Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and other 'strong leaders' argue that the years of liberalism are over: that the liberal idea is 'obsolete', according to the Russian president. And that therefore everything must return under the control of governments, starting with the economy and currencies.

As in the 1970s, before Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan came on the scene.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Heads Of State + Government (82%); Economic Crisis (75%); National Debt (75%); Economic Conditions (74%); Inflation (74%); Monetary Policy (74%); Central Banks (73%); Economic Growth (70%); Public Debt (63%)

**Industry:** Budgets (63%)

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[***Sea Watch, quarrel with Germany German President in the field***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K27D-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 417 words

**Byline:** Rinaldo Frignani

**Highlight:** Conte: I will ask them about Thyssen convicts. France: Rome makes everything hysterical. Lampedusa: 55 migrants rescued by the Italian Financial Police yesterday. A few hours earlier, 17 more landed on the island.

**Body**

ROME

In the Sea Watch case it is time for accusations from Germany and France. And Italy's responses, this time one-sided. The first accusation comes from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier: "Those who save lives cannot be considered criminals," he says in an interview with the Zdf on the arrest of captain Carola Rackete, for whom ***€620,***000 has already been collected at home, in addition to the €412,000 so far paid in a collection launched in Italy.

Then the president added: "It is possible that there are laws on when a ship can approach a port, but Italy is not just a state: it is at the centre of the ***EU***, it is a founding state. A case like this should have been dealt with in a different way'. Then, still on TV - on Lci -, the spokeswoman of the Macron government, Sibeth Ndiaye, increased the dose: "We are sorry. The Italian strategy is to make the debate on very painful topics hysterical. Salvini is exploiting the situation, but we are responding with figures on migrants. Since the French government, at least in words, is so generous with the immigrants, we will direct the next barges towards Marseille," announced the deputy prime minister and interior minister, who was even more explicit about President Steinmeier: "He should take care of what is happening in Germany and invite his fellow citizens to avoid breaking Italian laws, risking killing men of our police force. We will take care of prosecuting and putting in jail the criminals.

In Brussels, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said: "I would ask Merkel what stage has been reached in Germany in the execution of the sentence of the two Thyssen managers sentenced in Italy after a regular trial. It is instead "incorrect" to attack the commander, "but she is not a heroine", Conte said, while Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio proposed to "give the armed forces and police the ships confiscated from those who break the law". Yesterday, Open Arms reported a boat with 55 migrants, who were then rescued off Lampedusa by the Guardia di Finanza. In the morning another 17 had arrived on the island in a boat. On the micro-landings, Salvini announced "a meeting to intervene without modifying the security decree". In spite of the tension with Germany and France, ***EU*** Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans was optimistic: "Italy asked us for a hand to accommodate asylum seekers, we did it. We have to work like this".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Human Rights Violations (88%); Economic Growth (80%); Gross Domestic Product (80%); ***European*** Union (76%); Coastal Areas (71%); Economic Policy (71%); Smuggling (65%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

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[***Duel on the "wall" with Slovenia League for barriers, no from the premier***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K27M-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 11

**Length:** 677 words

**Byline:** Monica Guerzoni

**Highlight:** Fedriga: if migrants are not stopped, critical points must be closed. M5S: never Fedriga confrontation: Schengen must work This week he will talk to Salvini about the plan

**Body**

ROME

Giuseppe Conte is radically against it. For the Prime Minister, the Trump and Orbán-style wall, which the Lega has been calling for to stop migrants at the border between Italy and Slovenia, simply "cannot be done". Similarly, the political head of the 5 Star party Luigi Di Maio, who entrusted the deputy journalist Emilio Carelli with the task of stopping the allies' plans. "It is not by raising walls that the problems of migration can be governed", is the altruism of the former director of Sky Tg24, who invites the Carroccio to stop chasing the headlines and start working "seriously on the solution of this epoch-making drama, with humanity and seriousness".

The idea launched by the president of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Massimiliano Fedriga, marks yet another crack in the government's majority, with the League in favour and the Movement against. For the Carroccio, migrants must be physically stopped before they enter Italian territory. The 5 Stars, who have also aligned themselves with Salvini's choices on the Sea Watch, urge people to work in the countries of origin of migratory flows, to fight the causes that drive millions of people to flee wars and hunger. The President of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Giuseppe Brescia, said: "It's a crazy idea, I'm going to remove it immediately".

The problem, for the resilience of the gialloverde alliance, is that Salvini is seriously thinking about going ahead. "For now it is only a hypothesis," he explained to party leaders. But a very concrete hypothesis, given that this week he will discuss it with Fedriga at the Viminale. Interviewed by Il Fatto quotidiano yesterday, the 'governor' had confirmed the Trumpian hypothesis by talking about 'a wall or something else' to 'stop the migratory wave advancing through other ***EU*** countries', if ***Europe*** does not protect our borders.

The reaction of the opposition was indignant, with the green Angelo Bonelli rejecting the suggestion of a "wall of shame". Debora Serracchiani, former president of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, said it was "madness". Former Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni accused Salvini of "playing with the wall in Slovenia" and Enrico Letta, another of Conte's predecessors at Palazzo Chigi, thought it was the "joke of the day, not to mention zero growth, industrial crises, the collapsing capital and young Italians leaving".

At lunchtime, interviewed by Lucia Annunziata, Fedriga corrected his position without denying the project. "The president of Friuli-Venezia Giulia said to In 1/2 hour more that the 243 kilometres mentioned in the interview with Il Fatto "are not even the border between Italy and Slovenia" (which is 232 kilometres). However, Fedriga then confirmed Salvini's intentions to build a barrier to stop migrants in the karst forests on the Trieste border, which are easy to cross: 'We will evaluate the possibility of barriers at the most critical points. In short, the League asks ***Europe*** to respect the Schengen agreements and guard the borders, otherwise the plan will be triggered. We don't want to build walls," Fedriga warned on Rai3. "But if you don't respect the rules, then you put up walls, barriers in the busiest sections of the border.

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The numbers

The migratory flow through the Balkan route (which runs from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Austria and Germany) increased throughout 2018, according to Viminale data,

446 irregular foreigners were traced at the border between Italy and Slovenia. In the first five months of 2019, there were already 652, to which must be added the more than 130 detected so far in June The numbers,

although contained in relation to im-migration

by sea, report that the phenomenon

has almost doubled. For the Viminale, this is a sign that the migration route by land is being reactivated after the crackdown on migration by sea.

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**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Territorial + National Borders (67%)

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[***"Clear rules and rulings There is an obligation to assist, not to open ports'; Paolo Busco***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K27J-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 675 words

**Byline:** Danilo Taino

**Highlight:** Viminale consultant, expert on the law of the sea ***EU*** states 'The international community is in default, that's the real drama'

**Body**

When a dispute comes to a head, it is a good idea to turn to lawyers. Paolo Busco, one of Italy's foremost experts on maritime law and human rights, has been and continues to be an advisor to the governments in Rome on the case of the two Marò and has been an external consultant to the Ministry of the Interior for almost three years. In this interview - in a personal capacity - he says he firmly believes that Italy's conduct in the Sea Watch affair was lawful. "But here it seems to me that no one is preventing the NGOs from rescuing those who risk their lives at sea: the problem is much more limited and concerns the place where those who are legitimately rescued should be disembarked".

Lawyer, can ports be closed a priori?

"In the law of the sea there is no obligation to open ports. In Nicaragua v. USA, the International Court of Justice ruled that, on the basis of its sovereignty, a state has the right to regulate access to its ports" .

Without exception?

"The most relevant exception is the case of "distress" of a ship, i.e. when there is a reasonable certainty of a "serious and imminent" danger to the vessel: basically the danger of sinking. But even in this case there is an obligation to provide assistance, not to open the port".

The NGO ships, however, speak of the 'safe harbour principle'.

"There are two international conventions, signed by Italy, which stipulate that a rescue ends with a landing in a safe port: Search and Rescue and Safety of Life at Sea. But they don't say which one it should be: they were designed in the 1970s for shipwrecks in the middle of the sea and it was never imagined that there would be disputes over where to put the shipwrecked people ashore. Now they want to use the conventions for a different purpose, to regulate migration. These same conventions also stipulate that when a state is not in a position to receive immigrants, the other states should cooperate to find a solution. The Netherlands, for example, refuses to do this.

So can Italy decide to reject NGO ships?

"When a ship is in international waters, the jurisdiction of the State whose flag it flies applies, in the case of Sea Watch, the Netherlands. When it enters Italian territorial waters, it is under Italian jurisdiction, and therefore our country must take charge of it. This is why the NGO's ship was blocked outside Italian territorial waters. The decision of the ***European*** Court of Human Rights a week ago rejected Sea Watch's request to dock in an Italian port. But that's not enough, the Court also explained that it was a matter of establishing whether the ship was really under Italian jurisdiction, because there were flag state obligations".

So, for her, the Italian conduct is lawful.

"Yes, I am firmly convinced of that. But the question is rather whether the conduct of the rest of the international community is lawful. The only obligations that the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Conventions on Sea Rescue set out in unequivocal terms are the obligations to cooperate in the shared management of rescues among all states. It is made very clear: States must cooperate, all of them. And on this aspect, it seems to me that the international community is largely in default. This is the real tragedy, which prevents a real and lasting solution to the problem. All to the detriment of the migrants: because we focus on the presumed Italian straw, but not on the collective beam".

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The International Court of Justice has ruled that a state, on the basis of its sovereignty, has the right to regulate access to its ports.

Who is

Paolo Busco, 31 years old, lawyer, is a specialist in public international law. He was called by the Renzi government to deal with the case of the two Maròs arrested in India for the death of two fishermen.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** International Law (94%); Civil Rights (82%); Admiralty Law (80%); Human Rights Violations (68%); Conferences + Conventions (65%); Coastal Areas (63%); Sentencing (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Overpriced stock exchanges But not the Emerging Markets; Global Markets Investments***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2HW-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 42

**Length:** 674 words

**Byline:** Lionello Cadorin

**Highlight:** From equities to bricks and mortar (offices yes, residential no) to gold The recipes of Fidelity International's guru: prudence is needed In fixed income, we started buying Asian high yields last November and haven't stopped since

**Body**

I f he takes a stand, it's not as if his competitors don't flinch. James Bateman, the highly respected head of multi-asset investments at Fidelity International, the ***European*** arm of one of the world's largest asset management companies, is considered a key figure in the London City fund industry, a recognised influencer.

for authoritative analyses and independent judgements.

For some time now Bateman has been on the defensive, seeing the risk of a probable sell off in the coming months, a series of share sales by those who are afraid of losing more if they wait any longer. L'Economia del Corriere della Sera asked him to explain his defensive strategy by telling what he is buying and selling with his funds.

"A first reason for concern is that equities are expensive. But within an overall negative stance on stock markets, we are positive on Asian emerging markets, particularly China, which we expect to be healthy in the medium term, and negative on the US and ***Europe***. For the US, in addition to high stock prices, there is the unknown factor of consumption trends. In ***Europe, we are partly*** concerned about Brexit and partly about the scenario of many possible political changes.

What about bonds? "***European*** and US high yield bonds are expensive. We fear a rise in the default rate with the start of a cycle of defaults and bankruptcies. Investment grade bonds are also probably already very close to the correct price. Among government bonds, we particularly like US Treasury bonds, both ordinary and inflation-indexed, because they are likely to become a defensive haven in the event of a sell-off in the markets or an unexpected inflationary revival".

Is gold worth betting on? "We are buying gold, and will probably continue to do so to an increasing extent, because it provides good protection in the event of a sell-off. We will reduce our exposure to oil because we think supplies will be reduced in the face of weaker demand."

Brick and warehouses

"Residential real estate or not, is overvalued. Commercial office space yes, not in capitals and major centres but in ***Europe's*** second and third cities, such as Cologne and Düsseldorf in Germany, Birmingham and Manchester in the UK, Glasgow in Scotland, Lyon in France. We invest and will invest in warehouses and depots for storing goods that will be sold or distributed at a later date. The shopping pattern is increasingly shifting towards online, we are big buyers of large storage and distribution/delivery areas, particularly along motorways. These are investments that generate good sustainable returns over time, between 4 and 6%.

Finally, the alternatives: we are investing in two types of strategies. On the one hand, market-neutral strategies such as long-short equities, trend following and the like, where we are looking for alpha, i.e. outperformance compared to the market average; on the other hand, we are investing in green energy structures, both wind and solar, which are able to provide a stable return.

And here are some headlines that deserve attention. "In warehousing, TriTax Big Box, a British company. In green energy Greencoat (wind power). Then ***European*** telecommunications: they have restructured their business, they have consolidated it but the market has not yet recognised it, so the price is discounted relative to the value. We have invested in the sector ETF. In fixed income we started buying Asian high yields last November and haven't stopped, they are still attractive. Emerging market local currency bonds also offer good returns and have upside potential. Finally, gold: we invest via physical ETFs and also buy shares in mining companies.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Securities + Other Investments (94%); Economic Conditions (88%); Emerging Markets (88%); Inflation (75%); Business Forecasts (71%); Economic Growth (64%); Index Funds (64%); Developing Countries (63%); Funds + Investment Trusts (62%)

**Industry:** Farmers + Ranchers (65%); Marketing + Advertising (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Can Rome really block decisions?; How is a majority calculated?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K277-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 5

**Length:** 111 words

**Body**

The new President of the ***European*** Commission needs the support of a "reinforced qualified majority" of the ***European*** Council, i.e. 72% of the members: in practice, at least 21 out of 28 states. These countries must also represent at least 65% of the ***European*** population. If Great Britain abstains and Italy and the Visegrád countries - the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary - vote together against the majority proposals (effectively forming a 'blocking minority'), the second population criterion will not be met and the decisions could be rejected.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Politics (63%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***What Di Maio doesn't say about Ilva and Atlantia; THE POINT***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2GD-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

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**Section:** CORRIERECONOMY; Page 10

**Length:** 342 words

**Byline:** Daniele Manca

**Body**

The government seems to be very much in touch with the belly of the country, little with the fundamentals that hold a community together. Public accounts remain cloudy. The spread is being held down not by the executive's recovery efforts, but by the global economic conditions of low interest rates, lots of liquidity in search of yields and an ECB that is keeping a firm eye on the ***euro.*** This acts as an anaesthetic compared to the real situation of a state budget currently built solely on expenditure and possible tax increases (VAT). On the real economy front, the much-vaunted 'Growth Decree' came out of the Council of Ministers, requiring no less than 39 implementation decrees.

The passage through Parliament has seen that number rise to 75. And among these are those that reinstate measures of previous governments that had been improperly cancelled, with all the consequences of the case for businesses left in regulatory confusion. But this is unfortunately not surprising. Businesses are not among the government's priorities. Last week saw unprecedented attacks on important industrial groups in the country. The Minister of Economic Development, Luigi Di Maio, went so far as to define a group such as Atlantia, one of the few Italian multinationals, as a 'failed' company. In the style that characterises the current executive, the League has made exactly the opposite statement. With the result that the damage was done anyway, adding uncertainty to uncertainty. And what about the Ilva affair? It is undermining the foundations of the competitive capacity of the country, which cannot rely only on the 'small is beautiful' (which fortunately guarantees survival), but also on large companies as clearly outlined by Roger Abravanel in the 'Corriere' of 28 June. Unfortunately, the feeling among businesses and investors is that the electoral campaign, which should have stopped with the ***European*** elections, is continuing at the expense of the country.

@daniele\_manca

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Growth (94%); Economic Conditions (74%); Business Forecasts (73%); Gross Domestic Product (71%); Economic Crisis (65%); National Debt (65%); Public Debt (65%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (63%); Financial Performance + Reports (62%); Economic Policy (61%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***In Onda" is back with the Telese-Parenzo duo; on La7***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2B1-JDMV-K290-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** SHOWS; Page 27

**Length:** 246 words

**Body**

After last season's success, David Parenzo and Luca Telese will be back to host In Onda, La7's summer talk show, which will, as always, follow the latest political news, the news and the hottest topics of the moment. The programme will be broadcast from Monday to Saturday and will be extended on Tuesday and Thursday. During the "long" episodes there will be a space dedicated to the great witnesses of reality: documentary filmmakers, videomakers and freelance journalists will have the opportunity to present to the public their most recent works.

David Parenzo explains: "As the recent case of the Sea-Watch 3 ship and its captain shows, it will be a summer with many burning issues at its heart. The migrant issue, the relationship with ***Europe*** and tensions within the majority. A summer menu that promises to be rich and full of unexpected events. Luca Telese adds: "It's like this every year, In Onda starts its engines and the roar of an incendiary summer rises up: ***Europe***, the infringement procedure, Sea-Watch, the environmental emergency, the health/labour blackmail at Ilva. We are in the centre of the whirlpool, in the vortex where our lives are decided. It is wonderful to make this momentous transition a place for plural debate - as always. The In Onda team also includes authors and correspondents from the network's programmes, such as Alessandra Buccini from Piazzapulita and Daniele Bonistalli and Francesca Carrarini from Non è l'Arena.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Tornadoes (93%); Minority Groups (84%); Conferences + Conventions (83%); Adolescents (81%); Coastal Areas (78%); Climatology (77%); Environment + Natural Resources (77%); Education + Training (75%); Education Systems + Institutions (73%); Medical Devices + Equipment (73%); Film (69%); Politics (69%); Teaching + Teachers (68%); Marriage (67%); Weddings + Engagements (67%); Glaciers + Icebergs (64%)

**Industry:** Motor Vehicles (68%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"We protect those who defend the right to life"; The appeal of the lawyers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-D2C1-JDMV-K2DC-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

1 July 2019 Monday

TURIN Edition

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**Section:** TURIN NEWS; Page 6

**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Massimiliano Nerozzi

**Body**

The debate on Sea Watch 3 and the arrest of its captain, Carola Rackete, has reached Turin. While the criminalists of Milan write to Mattarella ("Let's defend the captain"), the lawyers Alberto Mittone, Anna Ronfani, Fulvio and Nicola Gianaria, send an appeal to the Criminal Chamber of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta.

"Lawyers," they write, "can have different opinions on the enormous problem of migratory flows and on the ***European*** rules that should organise the fair relocation of migrants, but they cannot intervene on the solution of problems that must be solved by national and supranational legislators. Lawyers know, however, that when the international laws of the sea and common ethics say that people in distress must be rescued, regardless of the reasons that gave rise to the danger, and must be taken to the nearest safe haven, no local law or measure can contradict these principles and, when this happens, the reasons of those who think it right to disobey these laws or measures must be shared". Like the captain of the Sea Watch 3. Ergo: "Whoever claims the need to protect in every way the right to life - they close - deserves to be protected and to be assisted by those who professionally exercise legal protection. For these reasons we ask all colleagues to show their willingness to assist those who, with civil disobedience, resist the violence of the institutions". The Criminal Chamber will discuss the issue, but the president, Alberto De Sanctis, already has a position: "The populist instrumentalisation of immigration is unacceptable".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Lawyers (94%); Criminal Law (88%); Sentencing (69%); Criminal Offenses (67%); Immigration (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"We say no to the agreement between Brussels and Mercosur"; Agriculture Minister Centinaio***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-YVV1-JDMV-K06M-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

16 July 2019 Tuesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 32

**Length:** 424 words

**Byline:** Matteo Muzio

**Body**

Saying yes to the ***European Union***'s agreement with Mercosur is like "holding a gun to your head". With this expression the Minister of Agriculture Gian Marco Centinaio communicated his opposition to the free trade agreement between the ***EU*** and the Mercosur countries on the sidelines of a meeting of the Council of ***Europe*** dedicated to agriculture and fisheries. The pact with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, Centinaio said, would bring us "an invasion of their products" and "I do not know anyone in the agricultural world who is in favour". The Italian government representative's remarks concerned several fronts: rice, poultry meat, wine, pasta and sugar, as well as the chapter on typical geographical indications: "The derogations provided for are too many," reads a note from the ministry. The Leghist government representative therefore said that Italy could vote against the agreement, for the approval of which a majority of ***European*** countries is required.

The minister's position is also supported by Coldiretti president Ettore Prandini, who said on the sidelines of the meeting with vice-premier Matteo Salvini that "products that pollute, exploit child labour and are dangerous to health could arrive in Italy thanks to free trade agreements such as the one with Mercosur". Tiziana Beghin, ***MEP***, spoke out against a prejudicial closure: "We support the export of Italian companies, we will analyse the text and make our assessments. Other ***European*** countries have already expressed doubts about the treaty with the four Latin American countries: France, Poland, Belgium and Ireland had sent a letter to Commission President Juncker on 17 June warning of the possible destabilising effect on some sectors. In Ireland, the biggest protests are currently taking place because of a regulation that would allow 99,000 tonnes of beef per year to enter ***Europe*** at a reduced duty of 7.5%. On 10 July, two thousand cattle farmers protested in front of the Dublin Parliament and on the same day, Agriculture Minister Michael Creed declared that the agreement was not finalised and MPs voted a motion to reject it, a snub for a promoter of the treaty, ***European*** Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, who is Dublin's representative.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Agriculture Regulation + Policy (69%); ***European*** Union (69%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (63%); Treaties + Agreements (63%); Food Safety (62%)

**Industry:** Agriculture (94%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***I'LL TELL THE COURIER***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-YVV1-JDMV-K065-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

16 July 2019 Tuesday

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**Section:** LETTERS TO THE COURIER; Page 29

**Length:** 474 words

**Body**

WORKERS

Public and private

the impossible comparison

Dear Aldo, I would like to point out the unequal treatment of public and private employees with regard to on-call time during illness. While civil servants have to observe the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., i.e. a total of seven hours a day, private employees have to observe the hours of 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., i.e. four hours a day. I believe that this is a blatantly unconstitutional rule which no government, let alone any trade union, has sought to remedy over the years. This anomaly should also be reported to the ***European*** Court of Justice, since no ***European*** country has rules that blatantly discriminate against workers.

Antonio Bovenzi

Dear Antonio, I am afraid that the rates of absenteeism are different. I would also remind you that Article 18 has been abolished for the private sector but not for the public sector. If I were you, I would not go into the comparison.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

"'All mobile phone use must be banned'.

Unfortunately, the majority of road accidents are caused by the reckless use of the telephone: I think it would be desirable to introduce into our Highway Code a rule prohibiting the use of mobile phones while driving, even if by means of a headset or speakerphone. The mere fact of communicating by phone is enough of a mental effort to distract one's attention, which should remain at the highest level. The penalties for ignoring the ban should be very severe: this is the only way to curb the phenomenon.

Mauro July

ALITALIA

"Why does the government

do you want to become a shareholder again?"

I am puzzled by the government's decision to become a shareholder in Alitalia again. This decision has already cost Italian citizens billions in the past. Delta, the only industrial partner, will be taking a 10% stake in the company just to guarantee itself rich connections to the USA. Is it wise to invest citizens' billions again in a market that is now polarised between low-cost airlines and large global players?

Luca Mancosu PENSIONERS AND ***EU***

"Italy also adopts

tax benefits'.

Many pensioners, even with 1,000 ***euros a*** month, move to Portugal, Romania or the Canary Islands, because of the benefits that these countries offer: much lower taxation than in Italy, the possibility of deducting rent and a lower cost of living than in Italy. Obviously all these pensioners spend everything in their new places of residence, thus contributing to the increase in GDP in these countries. Leaving aside the fact that these countries are competing unfairly with other ***EU*** Member States, I wonder why our government does not adopt similar measures for Italian pensioners to help our southern regions.

Giorgio Ferrante

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Senior Citizens (94%); Ethics (75%); Prices (75%); Law + Legal System (73%); Aging (70%); Wages + Salaries (67%); Economic Growth (63%); Gross Domestic Product (63%); Labor Force (63%); Multinational Corporations (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***von der Leyen's big day Must convince socialists***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-YVV1-JDMV-K058-00000-00&context=)

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16 July 2019 Tuesday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 12

**Length:** 579 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Highlight: *EU*** Commission leader in pectore in plenary today. S&D lukewarm. Conte calls Merkel

**Body**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

STRASBOURG

The uncertainties of a week ago over the future of German Ursula von der Leyen, appointed to lead the ***European*** Commission by the Council after long and difficult negotiations, seem to have been mostly overcome. But it will only be clear from the ***European*** Parliament's vote at the end of the day today how broad her support is. Divisions remain within the social democrats, with Germans, Poles, Hungarians, Belgians and Dutch still critical, although after last night's meeting two-thirds of the group was in favour of the nominee.

Some say von der Leyen could get around 400 votes, others talk of just 380: to be elected and become president of the Commission she needs at least 374 preferences out of 747 MPs. UVDL, as Ursula von der Leyen has been renamed, sent two letters yesterday to explain some points of her programme: one to the social democrats and one to the liberals. Roberto Gualtieri, head of the PD delegation in the S&D group, defined as "positive" a first evaluation of the text: "There are many important points - he explained - things that had not convinced us during the hearing and that are now there, such as the part on flexibility and legislative initiatives for the social dimension starting from the minimum wage or the commitment to propose a ***European*** unemployment benefit". For Gualtieri, "the group will have a large majority position" in favour of UVDL, although he reserved the right to decide after the speech from which "the fact that the candidate clearly addresses pro-European forces" must emerge. The S&D group will meet again today at 4pm.

In short, no courting of the sovereignists who have announced a vote against, although the League led by Marco Zanni reserves the right to decide today (there are openings on the Dublin Regulation) despite UVDL cancelling the planned meeting. In Strasbourg, together with Zanni, the Minister for ***European*** Affairs Lorenzo Fontana also arrived, who will see ID representatives today. Tomorrow and afterwards he will be in Brussels. The M5S also does not rule out support for UVDL. Yesterday, Prime Minister Conte spoke on the phone with Chancellor Merkel about the new ***European*** legislature.

The Liberals of Renew ***Europe***, the third largest group in the ***European*** Parliament with 108 MEPs, were satisfied with the letter received, the group is inclined to support it, but will meet again today before the vote. The sure no's are those of the Greens, the left-wing Gue and the conservative Ecr.

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How they are deployed

The EPP, which includes former German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen, will vote for its own candidate. They have overcome last week's discontent with the Council's rejection of Weber as the leading candidate.

Social Democrats

of S&D will lift the reservation of the vote today, after von der Leyen's speech. The letter received yesterday satisfied two thirds. German, Polish, Hungarian, Belgian and Dutch critics remain.

The Renew ***Europe*** liberals, who include a large Macronian patrol, are expected to support von der Leyen after yesterday's letter, although the group says there are still exchanges of information.

The leader of the Greens, Ska Keller of Germany, announced as early as the middle of last week that her group would not vote for von der Leyen because they were dissatisfied with the proposals on both the rule of law and the climate (74 votes).

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (80%); Politics (80%); Heads Of State + Government (69%); Human Rights Violations (69%); Associations + Organizations (68%); Central Banks (65%); Food Safety (63%); Nondurable Goods (63%); Tobacco + Health (62%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Populists and sovereignists: the furrow widening; the clash between the two leaders-vice-premiers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-YVV1-JDMV-K04W-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

16 July 2019 Tuesday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 5

**Length:** 466 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Body**

Two sensations emerge

by yet another clash between Movement

Five Stars and League.

The first impression is that Giuseppe Conte's government will go ahead anyway, but without vision or credible prospects. The second is that the conflict between deputies Luigi Di Maio and Matteo Salvini will escalate: with the premier determined to punctiliously claim his own role against the encroachments of the Lega Nord leader. The clash over the connections between the Carroccio and the Russian fixers is a piece of this showdown between populists and sovereignists: neither the only one nor the last. What is new is that Salvini appears more nervous and disoriented than ever. He shows that he has only one gear: that of attack.

This is why he does not want to appear in Parliament to answer for what he calls "fantasies" about the League's lobbyist in Russia, Gianluca Savoini, who did not respond to the magistrates yesterday. And he shields himself from the polls that give him a stable lead.

It is a defensive strategy based on the conviction that suspicions of illicit funding will prove unfounded. Yesterday's meeting in the Viminale with forty-three trade unions is consistent with this approach. And the presence in the Leghist delegation of former undersecretary Armando Siri, investigated and forced to resign a few weeks ago, confirms the challenge to the M5S and the certainty of having "his" public opinion behind him. Salvini does not seem to care about the irritability of an economic summit convened at the Viminale. The oppositions accuse him of having called the meeting to distract from the Russian mess.

However, it is a risky challenge. Not only because M5S and the Prime Minister are inviting him to answer in Parliament on the Savoini case, together with the PD. Few believe that the affair is destined to close without further surprises. Insisting on the role of shadow prime minister and multiple minister irritates Di Maio, who has just lost an election and is grappling with delicate dossiers such as Alitalia and the former Ilva in Taranto. And the harshness with which Conte warns that he will dictate the timing of the financial manoeuvre is an omen of frustration for the Lega Nord leader. It is not enough for Salvini to reply that he trusts the Prime Minister and does not want to 'steal anyone's job'. Moreover, the isolation to which he is condemning himself at ***European*** level has become conspicuous. Italy will soon have to indicate a candidate for the ***EU*** Commission. And the Russian issue will weigh negatively. It will be put in Salvini's hands, complicating the reassurance manoeuvres carried out with other governments by Conte, who yesterday heard from German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Closing himself up in the Italian enclosure may make the leader of the League feel protected. But it will not protect him from tensions that promise to spread to relations with his own party.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Economic Policy (73%); ***European*** Union (73%); Economic Growth (71%); Riots (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"'Matteo talks about tax reform but blocks work' PM's wrath; behind the scenes tug-of-war***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-YVV1-JDMV-K04T-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

16 July 2019 Tuesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 3

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** Marco Galluzzo

**Highlight: The *European*** Commissioner For the Prime Minister at this point, it is more difficult for the League to indicate the name for the ***European*** Commissioner

**Body**

ROME The straw that broke the camel's back was the allusion to the timing of the manoeuvre, the reference to its merit. At that point Giuseppe Conte decided to say that all this was "unacceptable", warned reporters under Palazzo Chigi that he was about to go downstairs for a coffee and at that point he somehow demolished Salvini's method. The sense of the decision: I will decide on the manoeuvre, it will be done at Palazzo Chigi, the timing will be decided by me with the ministers concerned, starting with that of the economy.

Even before the irreparable happened, Conte considered it an institutional ungrammaticality: the social partners convened at the Viminale, and not at Palazzo Chigi, a convocation completely detached from any form of connection with the Council presidency, an anomalous way of doing things to say the least. But when yesterday morning he saw even the former undersecretary Siri next to Salvini, heard that they were talking about the details of a flat tax of which he was not made aware, at that point the vase overflowed.

From ungrammaticality to an accusation of institutional impropriety, with a not inconsiderable corollary: while Salvini has been meeting the unions and the other social partners at the Ministry of the Interior in Palazzo Chigi since 28 June, for almost three weeks, there are still waiting for the delegates of the League who must be part of the institutional tables decided by the government to set the manoeuvre. The paradox is precisely this: Salvini takes the stage, tries to dictate the timing, says he wants the manoeuvre now, as early as August, but according to the timing and institutional rules "in fact he is blocking the tax reform", they say at Palazzo Chigi.

"On the subject of the manoeuvre and the flat tax, the president's staff clarify that for weeks the president has been urging the League to give the names of the delegates who should represent the League at the tables on the manoeuvre (there are five, including the one on tax reform). The League has not yet indicated these delegates," the statement was leaked by Palazzo Chigi.

The institutional confusion at this point could not be more acute: on the one hand Salvini meets with the social partners, on the other hand Salvini does not appoint the technicians who must materially draft, in black and white, the measures that will be part of the Budget Law. And finally Conte who has never seen the flat tax project presented by the League to the unions: perhaps something more than an impropriety given that Salvini and Conte seem to get along on a human level, but have not even heard from each other for some time.

After all, the Russia case has also influenced relations to some extent. Conte has opened the door to the possibility that Salvini might be called by Parliament to answer questions on the affair, adding that his guiding light is and will remain his attachment to the national interest and to the transparency of government action; there is little evidence of the latter in Salvini's latest moves, which categorically refuse to discuss in any serious way what happened in Moscow, between men close to him and the Russians with whom bribes and illegal funding for the League could have been discussed. At this point it is more difficult, they say in Chigi, for the League to indicate one of its representatives for the position of ***European*** Commissioner that falls to Italy.

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Fronts

The clash

on landings

In the last period, the League and the M5S have often found themselves in disagreement. The clash was sparked by the migrants' case, with Salvini accusing the 5 Stars of leaving him alone.

1

Security Decree

and new powers

The two parties were also divided on the second security decree, with the League pressing for more powers for the Viminale, giving the Interior Minister the power to "prohibit the transhipment or disembarkation" of migrants.

2

Spadafora case: the repartee

M5S undersecretary Vincenzo Spadafora criticised Salvini, calling him a 'chauvinist'. The vice-premier replied: "If I were him, I would resign".

3

The brake on Autonomy

The splits have also put the brakes on the reform of regional autonomy. The Movement

5 Stars argues that differences between rich and disadvantaged regions could be created

4

The divisions

on amnesties

The issue of fiscal peace also caused friction. The new package would include

an amnesty on pending litigation. This is not welcomed by the 5 Stars, who are against amnesties.

5

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Labor + Employment (94%); Labor Unions (94%); Politics (70%); Campaigns + Elections (61%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***A change of pace to return to growth; businesses, standards***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-HMD1-F13X-9089-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

31 July 2019 Wednesday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.28

**Length:** 843 words

**Byline:** Salvatore Rossi

**Body**

S

hese dates: by 27 september

the government must propose

to Parliament the Note

of the Def (Economic and Financial Document) Update

and finance) presented last April, in which the objectives for the public budget over the next three years are to be reformulated, also in the light of the recommendations that have come from the ***European*** Commission in the meantime.

By 15 October, the Government must send the Commission the new targets, as set out in the Resolution approved in the meantime by Parliament; by 20 October, the Government must submit to Parliament the bill with the complete budget for the following three years; by 31 December, Parliament must approve the budget (but has until 31 January to approve the related bills). If the end-of-year deadline is missed, the so-called 'provisional exercise' is triggered, regulated by Article 81 of the Constitution. It lasts no more than four months and allows the government to get by with ordinary expenditure and revenue within the strict limits of the previous year's budget.

It is a boring list, even if it is reduced to the bare bones. Italian and ***European*** budgetary procedures are very complicated and do not lend themselves to compelling stories. But in such a politically evolving situation, the subject is not insignificant.

If the government were only to be entrusted with current affairs pending political clarification, or if there were even a risk of early elections, the acts envisaged by the procedures would be politically unfeasible, beyond the formalities. Two possible consequences would be foreshadowed: those who hold public debt securities could become alarmed by the political uncertainty and cause the notorious spread to rise; moreover, the abhorred VAT increases would be triggered (next year from 22 to 24.2% for the ordinary rate, from 10 to 12% for the subsidised rate) provided for by current laws in the absence of new measures.

In reality, both bogeymen are questionable to say the least. The first is certainly possible but depends on the reasoning of the investors: if the provisional exercise served - they might think - to favour a political clarification and to give birth to a more cohesive and pro-market government than the current one, it could be the lesser evil, among other things by constraining expenditure a lot and therefore improving the budget balance. The second bogeyman is also undefined. If VAT rises, there will certainly be a ceteris paribus restrictive effect on the economy, but the "multipliers" are normally much smaller than those of other taxes, unless consumers and investors have been influenced by those who have demonised VAT increases in recent months and years and add a negative "confidence effect" by squeezing their spending even more.

In short, it does not seem to me that the dates and procedures for drawing up the public budget pose certain and insurmountable obstacles to the political cycle. There are two real problems. The first is that the draft budget for 2020 is very complex, not only because of the VAT issue, but also because of the Italian government's precarious relations with ***Europe***, which financial investors look to as the most important indicator of Italy's ultimate solvency; a cohesive and determined government is needed to tackle the arduous task. The second problem is even more general. The imbalance of the public budget is a very important issue, but the truly decisive one, on which the country's destiny is at stake, is Italy's ability to return to growth in the efficiency with which all the goods and services exchanged are produced, and ultimately its economy, after a quarter of a century of near stagnation. And this is more a matter of rules than of public money, even though the latter may be useful.

The role of economic and social policies in straightening out the situation is not so much to subsidise those who consume by means of public debt, but to correct the regulatory and, yes, also fiscal ecosystem in which the subjects on which productive efficiency and production depend, i.e. businesses, are immersed. Italy is still an advanced country because it still has companies that fight on equal terms in international markets. Alberto Alesina and Francesco Giavazzi gave some examples of this in these columns a few days ago; the Institute for Foreign Trade, presenting its annual report on the 23rd (which was lacking in the summary prepared by the editorial committee, whose academic members resigned as a result), underlined the point. It is that the gap between winning and losing companies is getting wider and wider, and some of the winners might even decide to leave Italy. We cannot afford this. The things to be done have been known for some time (legal system, education, public administration and so on), the problem is how to do them in a politically realistic way. This is what the public debate should focus on. © RESERVED REPRODUCTION

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Economic Growth (94%); National Debt (94%); Public Debt (94%); Gross Domestic Product (82%); Economic Policy (64%)

**Industry:** Budgets (71%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"Matteo will break up" The certainty of the leghists But the leader waits; The backstage***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-HMD1-F13X-908W-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

31 July 2019 Wednesday

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 7

**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** Marco Cremonesi

**Highlight:** His people: he will not give the green light to a budget without growth

**Body**

MILANO MARITTIMA (Ravenna) The calm before the storm. Matteo Salvini continues in his silence, with the episode of his son on the police jet ski further worsening the shadowy mood of his days in Milano Marittima. For many Leghisti, there is no doubt: 'Matteo will break. In the government there are no longer the conditions of trust necessary to move forward".

The point is always the same, now summed up in a key word, almost a hashtag: 'expendable motivation'. That which is necessary to break once and for all with the 5 Star Movement without 'finding the responsibility in its neck. The government must come to an end, but there must be no doubt that the responsibility does not lie with Matteo but with all the no-grills".

Yet. In spite of the evident tiredness of the vice-premier towards the worse than worn climate within the government, the leader has not yet decided on the definitive step. One fact clearly suggests it: Matteo Salvini has chosen not to go to Val di Susa to celebrate the decision of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to stop hostilities against the Turin-Lyon high-speed train. True, the intention had never been officially announced. But ever since the Prime Minister explained on 23 July that 'it would cost more not to build the Tav than to build it', the idea of Salvini's visit had been carefully considered and the temptation was strong. Finally, the decision: no Piedmont. The leader of the Italian League would have been a bit too much, even for a government with a very deteriorated climate.

The fact remains that over there, on an ever-closer horizon, is the manoeuvre for 2020. The issues postponed so far, the deficit needed to finance the flat tax, the disability law and the other measures promised for the coming year in the League are worrying everyone, Salvini first. But his supporters swear as one man: "Matteo will never give his green light to a manoeuvre without growth as ***Europe*** would like it". But if the government is to end, it is already almost too late today, and would expose the Lega leader to the inevitable accusations of irresponsibility for not having taken note of the situation in due time.

And so, today Salvini will return to Rome to participate in the Council of Ministers that will deal with the reform of justice, although probably not in a decisive way: the knots are far from being solved, prescription and separation of the careers of magistrates start from visions of the matter that are profoundly different from those of the stars. Before the Council meeting, the vice-premier will meet with the Minister of the Civil Service, Giulia Bongiorno, and the Undersecretary for Justice, Jacopo Morrone, to take stock of the situation. Afterwards, a summit with Giuseppe Conte and Luigi Di Maio will be held at Palazzo Chigi.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Riots (93%); Labor + Employment (83%); Immigration (81%); Sentencing (78%); Labor Unions (74%); ***European*** Union (64%); Pensions + Benefits Law (63%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***US-China duel, the (only apparent) gain for EuropeEurope; More or less***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K37K-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

15 August 2019 Thursday

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**Section:** LETTERS TO THE COURIER; Page 35

**Length:** 394 words

**Byline:** Danilo Taino Statistics Editor

**Highlight:** Trade clashes Italy could increase its exports to the two countries by 183-231 million. But it could also lose income due to higher costs of imported intermediate products.

**Body**

For ***Europe,*** the problem with the US-China tariff war is that it slows down the growth of the world economy and, even worse, could lead to a devastating currency war. Directly, however, it does not affect ***EU*** countries. On the contrary, even if only slightly, it benefits them, in the sense that the Americans will buy a little more ***European*** products and so will the Chinese.

They are not huge gains compared to what is lost in a global economy under stress, but calculating what benefits they bring to the Old Continent is an element of clarity in such a complicated issue as international trade. The Ifo in Munich, one of ***Europe's*** most prestigious research centres, made the calculation. If we consider the 25% tariffs already imposed by Donald Trump on 250 billion dollars of imports from China and 10% on another 300 billion, to be triggered between September and December, this would lead to a gain (including border duties) especially for Italy, among the ***EU*** countries. Exactly 183 million ***euros***. For France, the higher revenue would be 129 million, for Germany 94, for the United Kingdom 86 and for Spain 25. All in all, 1.5 billion ***euros*** earned by the ***EU*** countries. This compares with the 1.8 billion earned by the US and the 24.8 billion lost by China. A second scenario conducted by Ifo imagines, however, that China in turn imposes countertariffs on imports from the US. The losses for the Chinese would be reduced to ***€21***.6 billion and what were gains for the Americans would become losses of 1.5 billion. The 28 ***EU*** countries, on the other hand, would gain a little more, 1.7 billion: 323 million ***euros*** for Germany, 231 for Italy, 168 for France, 58 for the United Kingdom and 25 for Spain. The two simulations do not take into account the devaluation of the renminbi in recent days. This is the Ifo in Munich. Another major German research centre, the Ifw in Kiel, on the other hand, has calculated that the ***EU*** will suffer a cost increase of one billion dollars because the tariffs on Chinese and American goods will increase the cost of intermediate products that these two countries export to ***Europe.*** However, these are still small numbers: the big risk would be a quantum leap towards a war between currencies.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Growth (77%); Business Forecasts (73%)

**Industry:** Budgets (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"With FI in the centre-right, Italy will not leave the EU.EU"Coordinator Giacomoni***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K36C-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 12

**Length:** 438 words

**Byline:** P. D. C.

**Highlight:** A M5S, Pd and Leu mag-giority would be the government of the defeated Relations with Toti: "Any lists of governors should be limited to the places where they administer".

**Body**

rome Berlusconi's historical collaborator, among the four party coordinators after Toti's exit, Sestino Giacomoni has no doubts: there is no other majority, there is only the vote. With 'the centre-right united'. Because "if 5 Stars, PD and Leu were to create a political majority, a government of the defeated would be born, pauperist and justicialist, which the Italians have never voted for and of which we should be afraid. The crisis has revealed the true face of the grillini: they are the real "inciucisti". For them, Salvini and Renzi are the same, 'France or Spain as long as they eat'".

So you would not vote for a 'government of purpose'?

"The task of deciding is up to the Head of State, whom we have deep respect for, but I really think there is no room for a new government. We think that no more time should be wasted inventing other unnatural majorities: the pact between Grillo and Renzi could cause even more damage than the one between Di Maio and Salvini".

How are your relations with Salvini? The meeting with Berlusconi has failed...

"The signal that counts is that Salvini has finally broken the unnatural coalition with the Five Stars, determining the conditions for the rebirth of the centre-right. The rest are organisational details. In the 21st century leaders have many ways of communicating, not just meeting physically. However, I can assure you that relations are excellent, they have been in touch for a long time and they have the same objectives: to send the Conte government home and, immediately afterwards, with the vote, to bring the Italy of yes back to government".

Would you accept a centre-right list?

"We have been allies for 25 years, we govern regions and municipalities together. The strategic horizon is the same, the centre-right united, no doubt about it, but without merging. I believe that in the centre-right, today more than ever, we need the credibility, competence and authority of President Berlusconi and FI. With us present, the government would never take Italy out of the ***euro*** and out of ***Europe***".

There are those in Forza Italia who fear that Salvini will 'phagocytise' them.

"All we ask of the alliance with Salvini is transparency. The same transparency we asked for before the political elections, when the leaders publicly signed a government pact. Now we need a pact for a government of yes".

Will Berlusconi be a candidate?

"This is an assessment that is exclusively up to him. Without a doubt, his name on the list is fundamental for us.

Did you veto Toti?

"We will decide with the allies on possible lists of governors, which should obviously be limited to the regions they govern. We are not thinking of vetoes, but of votes".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

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[***Berlin's leadership loses steam And France prepares to 'overtake'; The scenario***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K37T-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

15 August 2019 Thursday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 36

**Length:** 621 words

**Byline:** Federico Fubini

**Highlight:** Growth, investment, research: the figures that prove Paris right The comparison Today there are fewer social imbalances and more efficiency west of the Rhine than east of it

**Body**

Last month the IMF published an unusually critical report on Germany: the country is lagging behind in terms of digital technology, productivity is not growing very much and exports are no longer driving the economy. In the section of the report reserved for comments by the authorities, the government expresses its dissent: in its opinion, the IMF is too optimistic, because growth in 2019 will be even lower than the 0.7% forecast.

Unlike the Italian governments, almost all of them, the political class in Berlin does not pretend not to understand the problems. ***Europe's leading*** economy, the largest market for Italian exports, is approaching recession because the latest indicators on confidence and industrial production show that a turn for the better is not in sight even in the summer. But the proximate causes of the slowdown - the trade wars between the United States and China, fears over Brexit - risk overshadowing what is moving deeper down. The dynamics of demography, investment, productivity and even the increase in inequality tell a consistent story: for the first time in a long time, German leadership in ***Europe*** is now in question; the leading country has fewer arguments, and less energy, to try to transform the other ***euro*** economies in its own image. Its ability to present itself as an example to emulate is in doubt as never before since 2008, while a competing model is emerging.

After a decade in the lead, linked to the guarantee of financial stability represented by Berlin, France seems to be on the verge of attempting a (relative) overtaking: today there is more growth, more efficiency and fewer social imbalances in the West than in the East of the Rhine. It is not only the latest figures that suggest this, although the French economy has been growing more than the German for two and a half years now. The consequences of different fundamental choices are also beginning to be seen. In the eleven years since the Great Recession, the cumulative total of public and private investment in France - according to ***Eurostat*** - has been 25% higher than in Germany. Again according to the ***EU*** agency, in research and development the Paris government has invested almost 8% of GDP more than Berlin overall. Small differences, repeated year after year, have opened up a considerable gap. According to Penn World Table data, the product per employee in France today is $91,000 a year compared to $88,000 in Germany. Above all, the OECD and the data collected by Trading Economics show that for the first time since 2008, labour productivity and overall productivity are now growing more in France than in Germany.

The transalpine countries have another advantage: the birth rate. Germany was 37% more populous than France after reunification thirty years ago, and will only be 15% more populous in thirty years' time (***Eurostat*** estimates), but by the middle of this century the young population will be larger in the other side of the Alps.

These are distant horizons, true, but the impact of these trends on a country's dynamism and growth can already be felt, year after year. All the more so because social and property inequalities are exploding in Germany, while they are falling (slightly) on the other side of the Rhine.

Of course, France is still unable to solve huge problems that Germany does not have, the public debt and above all the corporate debt that has continued to rise. And no ***European*** country today is a model for the rest of the world. But after ten years in which Berlin was hegemonic, determining also the political leadership and the system of alliances in ***Europe***, something is changing and it concerns everyone. It matters little who governs in Paris or Berlin, today or tomorrow.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** National Debt (94%); Economic Growth (88%); Public Debt (78%); Gross Domestic Product (74%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Germany's slowdown Recession fears, stock markets down***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K37R-00000-00&context=)

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15 August 2019 Thursday

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 36

**Length:** 397 words

**Byline:** Giuliana Ferraino

**Highlight:** Wall Street and Nasdaq down 3%, Milan 2.5%. German GDP negative (-0.1%)

**Body**

The lull in the markets lasted only a day. Shaken by fears of a new recession in Germany and the US, stock markets closed in deep red yesterday, with America down more than 3%.

In the second quarter, German Gross Domestic Product fell by 0.1% compared to the first 3 months of 2019 (+0.4% year-on-year), but the worsening of growth expectations signalled by the collapse of the Zew index to -44 points (from -24.5 in July) and the decline in industrial production (-1.5% in June and -5.2% year-on-year) opens the way to a possible technical recession (2 consecutive quarters of falling GDP). This is also bad news for the rest of the ***eurozone***, with GDP falling from +0.4% to +0.2% in the second quarter, and particularly for Italy, given that Germany is the leading market for our goods. In the US (and the UK), the yield on 10-year Treasury bonds fell below that on 2-year bonds, a curve inversion not seen for over a decade and a precursor of recession.

In a summer already full of tensions, from the trade war to the crisis in Argentina, the latest (bad) news has spooked investors. And gold, the ultimate safe haven asset in times of volatility, hit a new record high of over 1,500 dollars an ounce. Milan was the worst stock market in ***Europe***, with the FTSE MIB down 2.53%, while the spread fell to around 217 points on the day Bankitalia reported a new record of public debt at 2,386 billion in June. But since the beginning of the year, Piazza Affari has gained 9.26%. Bad also the other lists: Frankfurt -2.28%, Paris -2.08%, and London -1.42%. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones lost 3.05% and the Nasdaq 3.02%.

The Argentine stock market and the peso are still falling, down another 3% (the currency has depreciated by around a third against the dollar since the start of the week), despite the ***EUR*** 600 million anti-crisis package announced yesterday by President Mauricio Macri. These include an increase in the minimum wage to 190 ***euros*** today, an extraordinary bonus of 75 ***euros*** at the end of the month for public employees, an increase in the minimum non-taxable income tax, a moratorium with the tax authorities for small and medium-sized enterprises and a 90-day freeze on petrol prices.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Stock Indexes (94%); Prices (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Letters of the summer; WRITE TO THE COURIER***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K37N-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

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**Section:** LETTERS TO THE COURIER; Page 35

**Length:** 622 words

**Body**

BEACHES

Too many concessions

A public good

which yields little

Dear Courier,

More than half of our beaches are in private hands and there are fewer and fewer free beaches. We are the only country in ***Europe*** that does not set limits for concessionary beaches, as this is the responsibility of the individual regions.

Gabriele Salini

Dear Salini,

how far does beach freedom go? The question, besides being related to the more or less serene life of bathers, concerns the State's accounts and its ability to manage state property. In the last manoeuvre it was decided to extend the concessions currently in force for 15 years. In ***Europe,*** the Bolkenstein directive (remember the one on football players?) on liberalisation has been in force since 2006. Legambiente, in its dossier 'Beaches belong to everyone!', points out that the State only collects 103 million per year. The point is probably that we need to reconcile greater freedom of beach umbrellas with a better ability on the part of the State and the Regions to make use of their assets. It should not be forgotten, however, that in many cases the managers are true entrepreneurs who create a summer economy that provides employment for many people. It is also true, however, that the phenomenon of evasion is estimated at around 2 billion. It seems an impossible puzzle, but with 8 thousand kilometres of coastline it should be a priority.

(Nicola Saldutti)

UFO

"'Sanders' move

seems demagogic'.

I must confess that I have always liked the US Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders: I saw him as eccentric enough, and brave enough to declare himself a 'socialist' in the country that has done everything to fight him. However, I didn't like the senator's latest outing, which was a campaign for his party's primaries. To undertake, if elected, to reveal all the secrets about UFOs seems to me to be an absolutely demagogic and simplistic move that does not suit the person he wants to appear. Trying to win support based on the morbidity of conspiracy theories seems to me more like a Trump strategy than that of someone who stands up for the lower classes of the population.

Mauro Chiostri

SUPERENALOTTO

"Better to impose

a limit to winnings'.

In Lodi, someone is going to collect a winnings of more than 200 million ***euros***. Perhaps, given the enormous sums of money that can be involved in such a game, a ceiling should be set. In an ideal country, the lucky winner would only have received, say, one hundred million, the other hundred would have been earmarked for medical research or the renovation of a public building.

Paul United

THE DIVA

"At 85, Sophia Loren

is still in the game'.

My compliments to Sophia Loren, who at almost 85 years of age has put herself back into the game in 'La vita davanti a sé'. Shooting has just finished in Bari, my home town, but also in other locations in Puglia. Let's face it: Loren has nothing more to prove as an actress, having won anything and everything. But it is precisely because of this that her return to the set implies her sincere enthusiasm for a new uplifting role, that of an elderly Jewish woman who takes care of a boy taken off the street. The fact that the director is her son Edoardo shows that the diva trusts him artistically, as he has already directed her. I think, however, that the film will be appreciated more abroad, because a certain type of cinema, between the introspective and the profound, is very popular.

and drama, works better in the rest of ***Europe*** than in Italy, a country that now mainly follows comedies and superheroes. Who knows if this new role might bring Sophia Loren another Oscar nomination and perhaps, surprisingly, the coveted statuette, which would be hers for the third time.

Romolo Ricapito

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Coastal Areas (94%); Foreign Policy (82%); Manufacturing Facilities (78%); Politics (75%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (73%); Treaties + Agreements (73%); Health Care Policy (62%)

**Industry:** Marketing + Advertising (71%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***LEGHIST LEADER IN DIFFICULTY CAMPAIGNS ON REFUGEES; The Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K360-00000-00&context=)

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Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 7

**Length:** 496 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Body**

The operation is deft and insidious. Crediting the "green light" to the 150 migrants of the Open Arms ship as the first effect of the embryonic understanding between M5S and Pd, is the symbolic flag that Matteo Salvini plants before leaving the government; and a sort of warning to voters and former allies. For this reason, the Interior Minister and vice-premier responded to the Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, who asked to land them at least to protect minors, with yet another refusal. And never mind that the Lazio Regional Administrative Court ruled that the blockade of Open Arms should not be continued, also because of the dangers to the people on board. This is the poisoned tail of a crisis that has not yet been formally opened, and of an election campaign that began too long ago.

But a few firm points are beginning to emerge in the midst of the Salvini-led Ferragosto marasmus. The first is the confirmation that on the 20th, in the Senate, the League will present its motion of no-confidence. Therefore, the crisis will open. The second is that, under the radar, contacts between M5S and PD to create a new majority continue: with great caution, and just as much scepticism; but also with the awareness that the dissolution of the Chambers demanded by Salvini would jeopardise public accounts, the financial manoeuvre and relations with the ***European*** Commission.

There is also a suspicion that the Carroccio leader's moves have not been masterly, despite the polls. The mixture of confidence and bravado with which Salvini has approached Parliament has underestimated the parliamentary dynamics; and in fact a different majority has been cemented. The last-ditch proposal to go along with the cut of deputies and senators supported by the Five Star party was a desperate and useless stunt. And it provoked a certain amount of disappointment from the Quirinal.

The fact that the leghists consider an M5S-PD government likely smacks of superstition and at the same time of the certainty of an ephemeral mess. Certainly, the operation is complicated. It is difficult to reconcile the distances on Tav, justice, cutting the number of MPs and relations with ***Europe.*** However, negotiations should not be dismissed as a waste of time. It would be a waste if it only served to postpone the elections from October to February 2020. But the aim is something more lasting. On the other hand, the secretary of the Democratic Party, Nicola Zingaretti, while not excluding the ballot box, is well aware of how much the M5S is terrified by the vote and willing to make concessions. Otherwise, Salvini would have an easy time pointing to the new "inciucio" and setting the squares on fire.

The "truth" that Conte announced he would tell in the Senate chamber will certainly not be comfortable for the leader of the Italian League, who for months has been posing as a shadow premier. But the clash on migrants confirms how complicated it will be to find a new balance by archiving months in which Salvini has unscrupulously exploited the issue of immigration. His stance yesterday confirms that he will continue to do so outside the Viminale.

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**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Campaigns + Elections (93%); Immigration (88%); National Debt (83%); Tobacco + Health (82%); Divorce + Dissolution (75%); Marriage Law (75%); Riots (69%); Economic Crisis (68%); Foreign Policy (67%); Central Banks (63%); ***European*** Union (63%); Excise Tax (62%)

**Industry:** Budgets (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Psychologist Alessandro "On board desperate people ready to commit suicide The judges said yes"; The operators on the ship***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K35Y-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

15 August 2019 Thursday

Rebuttal Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 6.7

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Marta Serafini

**Body**

"Psychological suffering, suicidal instincts, dissociation'. These are some of the pathologies found among the 147 Open Arms migrants.

It is on the basis of the report drawn up by Yohannes and Alessandro, the Emergency mediator and psychologist who boarded the Catalan NGO's ship on Tuesday, that the Lazio Regional Administrative Court made its decision. "The operators started to collect testimonies and a chilling picture emerged," Riccardo Gatti, president of Open Arms Italy, explained to Corriere. "The lack of hope for the future may be accompanied by a tendency to see suicide as a possible escape route from the suffering experienced," the report reads.

Abuse, torture in detention centres in Libya. "Many still bear the marks of burns, wounds and rape. And there are those who have attempted the journey four or five times. The traumas of captivity are exacerbated by the forced stay at sea. "Then we had to stop the interviews because of the worsening weather conditions,' Gatti continues.

C ercing to maintain calm on board the ship were coordinator Ani Montes Mier, 31, from Asturias, and captain Marc Reig Creus, 43. Both were already investigated by the Catania prosecutor's office for criminal conspiracy aimed at illegal immigration following a landing in Pozzallo in March 2018, before which they had refused to hand over migrants to the Libyan Coast Guard (the file was later archived)

.

This Open Arms mission was particularly complex in terms of health and logistics. On 11 August, a migrant suffering from tuberculosis had to be evacuated to Lampedusa, while eight others, three of whom were in an alarming condition, were transferred to Malta by helicopter. Among them was a woman who was subjected to repeated sexual violence for nine months in Libya. Then, the day before yesterday, nine-month-old Moussa was transported to Lampedusa for serious respiratory problems. At his side, the little twin Isa, his Eritrean mother and Ethiopian father. But for all the others, land is still far away.

In this context, the tension on deck is growing by the hour and the risk of possible fights is increasing, as confirmed by the founder of the NGO Oscar Camps. "The 19 members of the crew can hardly contain the disputes that arise over food, places in the shade or in the sun, the queue for the toilets".

Then, late yesterday afternoon, the news of the precautionary decree signed by the president of the Tar Leonardo Pasanisi. The situation is of 'exceptional gravity and urgency' such as to justify 'the entry of the Open Arms ship into Italian territorial waters (and therefore to provide immediate assistance to the most needy rescued persons, as it seems to have already happened for the most critical cases)', reads the text. These words confirm the picture indicated by the operators and underline the need for immediate medical and psychiatric interventions.

A cry of joy rises from the deck of the Open Arms. It goes to Lampedusa. "Today we have won a battle for a humanity that seemed to be missing. Sanity will prevail," reads a tweet published by the same NGO.

In the evening, two navy ships remotely escorted the ship towards Italian territorial waters. Defence Minister Elisabetta Trenta gave a mandate to monitor the situation and contacted the Juvenile Court in Palermo to ascertain the conditions of the 32 minors on board and, if necessary, arrange for their immediate transfer.

But from the Viminale (the Italian Ministry of the Interior) comes yet another no, the authorisation to disembark is denied. "We are still sailing by sight", say Open Arms. Meanwhile, tensions remain high on the bridge.

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830 fatalities in the Mediterranean between January and July 2019. Most deaths occurred on the central Mediterranean route

(data from UNHCR)

Background

The Diciotti case

and landing in Catania

On the night between 14 and 15 August 2018, the Italian Coast Guard ship 'Diciotti' rescued 190 migrants. It was only on the night between 25 and 26 that the migrants were disembarked in Catania

1

Captain Carola forces the blockade

On 29 June 2019 after 17 days with 40 migrants on board, the commander of the "Sea Watch 3" Carola Rackete, invoking the state of necessity, forces the blockade and enters the port of Lampedusa

2

The Gregoretti ship

and ***European*** countries

On 31 July 2019, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini authorises the disembarkation of the Coast Guard Gregoretti, in Augusta, only after five ***European*** countries agree to take charge of the migrants

3

Ocean Viking still without a port

The SOS Mediterranee and Msf ship, Ocean Viking, with 356 people on board, including 103 minors, is still without a safe port.

and Lampedusa

4

null

The Head of Mission

Ana Isabel Montes Mier, known as Ani, is the head of the Open Arms mission. A former student of history and philosophy, she is originally from Asturias. She was investigated by the Catania Public Prosecutor's Office for aiding and abetting illegal immigration (the case was later dismissed).

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Coastal Areas (94%); Defense Departments (78%); Armed Forces (74%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

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[***"From young people to ecology, a legislative pact can be forged with the Crickets"; Giorgio Gori***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-3DX1-JDMV-K366-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

15 August 2019 Thursday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 10

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** Simone Bianco

**Highlight:** Surely a step back is needed on the measures wanted by the League, such as Quota 100 and Security. Right to do it

**Body**

bergamo

"One should not be afraid of elections. But voting now is a mistake. Not for the Democratic Party, but for the country. For Giorgio Gori, the attempt must be made, the Democratic Party must try to build a project that allows the legislature to continue. And not only, explains the mayor of Bergamo, to postpone the elections for a few months.

Is the direction of a legislative pact?

"After the initial shocks, it seems to me that a common line is being found in the Democratic Party, that of going to see if the conditions for a legislative pact are in place. Not only with the M5S, but also with Leu, the Autonomies, the Mixed Group and the part of Forza Italia that doesn't want to be Salvini's spare wheel. It is very difficult but not impossible. I think we have to try.

Is a long-term project more sustainable than Matteo Renzi's initial idea, i.e. a government to postpone the vote by a few months?

"Renzi's proposal had the merit of turning the debate around, slowing down the race towards elections in the autumn. But it had its limits. Avoiding the VAT increase is not enough as a reason to constitute a new majority. The country is in an emergency. We must have more courage.

On what basis?

"On the fight against inequality, green investments and policies for young people, common ground can be found with the M5S. It is certainly necessary to take a step back on measures wanted by the League, such as Quota 100 and the Security decrees. On the economic front, the starting point could be to cut the tax wedge.

On the Tav, however, positions remain opposed.

"It seems clear to me that there is no going back on the Tav. Other infrastructure investments must also be released.

After the defeat of 4 March, however, you were among those who rejected the idea of a Pd-M5S government. What has changed?

"I have never been among those who have made a battle against a collaboration with the M5S. Having said that, the Movement is no longer the one of 4 March, it is weaker in numbers and has had to come to terms with reality."

But isn't there a danger that the operation could be seen as an attempt to avoid a vote and a League victory?

"We should not fear the vote. But the damage of one year of the yellow-green government requires strong intervention. The economy is at a standstill and we are totally isolated in ***Europe***. A VAT increase must be avoided and investments must be relaunched as a matter of urgency. We have to put the country back on track and prevent Salvini from taking it where he wants: out of the realm of liberal democracy, out of ***Europe*** and into Putin's orbit".

Is there a name more suitable than others to manage this phase as Prime Minister?

"This is not the time to name names. We must first agree on the things to be done, which, I repeat, is by no means easy or obvious".

You have just launched the idea of an Assembly of Mayors as the body of the future PD. Do you think Zingaretti should consult you at this time?

"The statutory modification cannot be done in two days. But I would like the secretary to listen to the mayors at this stage.

If the elections are receding, will the possibility of a role for you at national level also recede?

"I have just been re-elected. I'm a mayor, I'm not running for political office, but I'm absolutely determined to help.

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**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Campaigns + Elections (94%); Tobacco + Health (80%); Criminal Offenses (69%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (68%); Immigration (61%)

**Industry:** Budgets (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"'War on intelligence We are in the last stage of a long disease'; The interview***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39S-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

30 August 2019 Friday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 12

**Length:** 485 words

**Byline:** Matteo Persivale

**Highlight:** Writer Jacobson: 'Irresponsible politics'.

**Body**

LONDON " Brexit is a declaration of war. Not on the ***European Union***, no. It is a declaration of war on intelligence." Howard Jacobson is one of the wittiest writers of our time, winner of the Man Booker in his novel which comes out today in Italy,

Cheer up

(La Nave di Teseo) makes the reader laugh out loud right from the very first line, with a striking incipit. He has been described as 'the English Philip Roth' and he replied that he prefers to be considered 'the Jewish Jane Austen'. Today, however, he does not feel like joking: 'I have many things to say, unfortunately none of them are particularly funny'.

31 October is approaching, the exit from the ***European Union***. Did you expect this?

"We are in the last stage of a disease that has been eating away at the UK for many years, since the end of the industrial era and the beginning of the post-industrial era. So many workers have found themselves in trouble and politicians instead of devising solutions have cast them against the elites. The grotesque thing is that these supposed friends of the workers were born rich and went to the most expensive schools, like Boris Johnson. Figures who have nothing to do with workers and who do not care about workers.

Johnson wrote a novel a few years ago. He is a colleague of yours in a way.

"I've read a few passages of it: an amazing book. He's not a writer, he became famous as a journalist because he has a quick wit, that's all."

One positive thing about Johnson at least?

"He's not an anti-Semite, he doesn't have the slightest anti-Semitic tendency, I guarantee that. In these years of rising anti-Semitism in Britain, that's good news."

Anti-Semitism in Labour is Jeremy Corbyn's problem.

"'A real, terrible problem. Corbyn wants Brexit even more strongly than Boris: Boris, if the situation really went down, would reverse without batting an eyelid and be the first to praise ***Europe***, he has no scruples. Corbyn on the other hand is a Manichean, very rigid. He reminds me of those who in the 1930s mechanically repeated the directives received from Moscow, but who were more intelligent than he was. But the most serious thing is not even the exit from ***Europe***.

What is it then?

"This war against intelligence, the idea that you shouldn't trust people who know things because there is a kind of popular intelligence that can solve everything thanks to the Internet".

What happens now?

"My prediction? Boris will find a way to make an infinitesimal change to the backstop on Northern Ireland, present it to ***Europe*** as if it were the solution to everything, lying filthily, and demand concessions. If he doesn't get them, so much the worse."

A happy thought today?

"I'm about to leave for Mantua, I've been invited to the Festivaletteratura. It's my favourite place in the world: I'll see lots of friends, go to the piazza, eat bigoli and drink Valpolicella and I'll feel like I'm in paradise. But then I have to go home.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

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**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Writers (94%); Economic Growth (88%); Jews + Judaism (76%); ***European*** Union (75%); Sweatshops (70%)

**Industry:** Publishing (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Macron, Greens and the Left Now M5S can reopen dialogue; Parliament EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39J-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

30 August 2019 Friday

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 167 words

**Byline:** Francesca Basso

**Body**

The divorce between M5S and Lega could help the Pentastellati to find a group in the ***EU*** Parliament. The alliance with the Carroccio has closed several doors to the Movement, which is aiming for groups without Italians. The Parliament resumes work on Monday. "The dialogue started with some groups and individual delegations will continue in the coming weeks," explains delegation leader Tiziana Beghin. Based on the last legislature, the greatest affinity is with the Greens, who, however, have never hidden the fact that they do not digest the alliance with the League and the role of Casaleggio and Grillo. Contacts with the Gue left have been blocked by the Portuguese and Cypriots for Salvini, who has also kept the M5S distant from the liberals of Renew ***Europe***, the group that hosts the Macronians. On many issues, the ***EU*** Parliament is split," Beghin said, "We were the needle of the scales in the election of Von der Leyen and we will be decisive on many vital dossiers for Italy: such as migration, climate, the Stability Pact and Made in.

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**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Marriage Law (86%); Divorce + Dissolution (78%); Family Law (78%); ***European*** Union (70%); Campaigns + Elections (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***THE ADVANTAGES of an EU MORE COHESIVE; What to do and why***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K393-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST PAGE; Page 1.26

**Length:** 867 words

**Byline:** Lucrezia Reichlin

**Body**

Two significant international meetings took place at the end of August: the annual meeting of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and the G7 meeting. The topics of the two conferences were different, but both meetings revealed a common bewilderment at a situation in which the US is no longer the mainstay of international cooperation and a new balance is struggling to be found.

A central theme addressed by the Jackson Hole conference is the crisis in the functioning of the dollar-dominated international financial system. The United States is the world's banker. They demand dollars because much of international trade is invoiced in dollars and/or because US government bonds are liquid and safe - and therefore attractive - especially when uncertainty is widespread. This gives the United States an "exorbitant privilege", as Giscard d'Estaing called it in another era: US monetary policy influences the prices of the world's financial instruments and exchange rates; other countries are forced to suffer it. But not only that. If there were to be a new crisis, for example, the central banks of the rest of the world would, as was the case in 2008, need to borrow dollars from the Federal Reserve to meet demand from their countries' banks and thus avoid instability. But getting them today would not be a given: it would depend on the willingness of the US to cooperate.

The dominance of the dollar is not a new problem but it becomes worrying in a situation where the independence of the Federal Reserve is being questioned by President Trump and where the United States has changed course, giving up being the pillar of international cooperation and going down the road of trade and foreign exchange wars. How can the international financial system function if the country at the centre of it, the United States, has become unreliable and unpredictable?

At the G7, the discussion covered more general issues, but there was similar concern about the changing role of the US, led by a President who purposely creates permanent uncertainty on international trade issues and does not promote cooperative solutions on all other important issues, from geopolitics to the environment.

The new ***European*** season is opening in this context. It is clear to everyone that if ***Europe*** were more cohesive and capable of deepening its economic and political union, it could play a greater role in the world and the ***euro*** could also aspire to an international role. It remains squeezed between the United States, China and Russia and is vulnerable because of its political fragility despite the important size of its economy.

The mistakes of the past and the uncertainty of today weigh heavily. On the economic front, in the years of the crisis the EU countries were unable to support the ECB with complementary policies to support the economy more aggressively. This mistake must not be repeated today, especially as the central banks seem to have run out of ammunition. It is precisely in this respect that the Jackson Hole meeting gave a second particularly pressing message for ***Europe***.

Monetary policy alone cannot have much of an impact on the economy. Interest rates are at zero (in the case of the ***eurozone***, those on reserves at the ECB are even negative) and central bank balance sheets have more than doubled since 2008 as a result of securities purchases and special operations, but inflation remains weak and the real economy is slowing today. Should this slowdown turn into a recession, it is unclear what form further monetary stimulus will take and whether it will have any effect.

We need to accompany monetary policy with reforms and ambitious programmes to support the economy. But above all, it is important to relaunch a message of confidence in the ***European*** project. This confidence is the necessary condition to get investment moving again in order to combat the widespread risk aversion that makes German and Dutch investors prefer to park deposits at negative rates rather than invest them in more ambitious, pan-European projects. Without a convincing blueprint to reset the dialogue between member states and open the door to greater risk-sharing alongside commitments to responsible national policies, we remain fragile and at the mercy of American choices, which are now more volatile and uncooperative than ever. The Jackson Hole conference reminded us that a more robust multilateral world cannot rely solely on the dollar. But if the ***euro is*** to compete as an international currency, and the Union is to have a voice on major global issues at the G7 and G20 tables, it must become a more convincing federation in which the currency is backed by the credibility of the member states and politics guided by common values. The alternative would be painful. A return to national currencies would multiply today's fragility and leave each ***European*** country at the mercy of the vagaries of American politics.

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**Industry:** Budgets (68%)

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**End of Document**

[***Lagarde opens up to Eurobonds and new budgetary rules***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K3C4-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** ECONOMY; Page 29

**Length:** 509 words

**Byline:** Fabrizio Massaro ***European*** bonds "Can make ECB policy more effective and strengthen the ***euro*** internationally".

**Highlight:** ECB president-designate in line with Draghi: ahead with support for economies Expectations On 12 September, the ECB is expected to launch new monetary stimulus and cut rates further

**Body**

The ECB president-designate Christine Lagarde presented a manifesto to the ***European*** Parliament ahead of next Wednesday's hearing before the Economic Affairs Committee chaired by Italian Roberto Gualtieri, of the Italian Democratic Party. Lagarde fully confirms the "very accommodating" line of Mario Draghi, the ECB president whose mandate expires on 31 October. But she also takes steps forward. In 48 pages of written answers to MEPs, she declares herself in favour of safe "common sovereign bonds" and of a reform of the ***Eurozone***'s fiscal rules.

On the subject of "safe assets" - essentially, ***Eurobonds*** - according to Lagarde, "they could contribute to a more efficient implementation of monetary policy" and "indirectly contribute to strengthening the international role of the ***euro***". The reform of ***Europe'***s existing fiscal rules (the so-called "six pack" and "two pack") should instead serve to give greater flexibility to member states but above all to support budgetary policies at the national level that do not prove heavy-handed during crises (such as the austerity already experienced) and loose during periods of expansion. According to Lagarde, the changes should mainly serve as an incentive for ***eurozone*** countries to create margins during good economic cycles that they can then use in times of difficulty.

However, the first challenge that the 63-year-old French lawyer, who has just left the IMF, will have to face is monetary policy. On 12 September, the ECB is due to launch a new monetary stimulus package (such as subsidised loans to banks and a new buy-back of government bonds, "Quantitative easing") and to further reduce deposit rates, which have already been in negative territory for some time at -0.4%. The future French president wants to keep her hands even freer: the ECB, she writes, "has not yet reached the lowest point for interest rates. It is clear," she emphasises, "that low rates have consequences for the banking sector and for market stability in general," and so "care will have to be taken". However, "monetary policy will have to remain very accommodative in the near future".

The objective remains the stability of the economy through a level of inflation close to but below 2 per cent, which, however, even after years of stimulus, has not yet been achieved. The monetary policy of the past eight years, she notes, "has been effective and successful", given that - according to ECB calculations - "in the period 2016-20 growth and inflation would have been about 1.9 percentage points lower in the absence of the measures taken between mid-2014 and mid-2018". Lagarde also agrees with Draghi's interpretation of the causes: "geo-political factors, protectionist pressures and emerging market vulnerabilities have contributed to the worsening of the ***eurozone*** economy". On the other hand, the impact of the Brexit will be "limited", as the financial system has adjusted in time.

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**Industry:** Budgets (63%)

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**End of Document**

[***"'No more quarrels between allies' Lawyer's plan to withstand shocks; PRIME MINISTER ENCOURAGES STRATEGY***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K397-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** FIRST FLOOR; Page 3

**Length:** 1077 words

**Byline:** Massimo Franco

**Highlight:** The good relationship with von der Leyen and the goal of immediate returns

**Body**

"You have changed," one of his interlocutors told him during yesterday afternoon's consultations. Giuseppe Conte had just explained that he was not worried about the vote of the Grillini on the Rousseau platform and that he intended to present the new government between next Tuesday and Wednesday. He showed an unprecedented confidence. "No longer as an executor of someone else's contract, but as an aspiring leader of a political coalition," the interlocutor observed. Perhaps he was exaggerating, taking for granted a transformation yet to be demonstrated. But some clues had already appeared in the things said and in those kept silent, after the morning meeting with the Head of State, Sergio Mattarella.

For example, the Prime Minister in charge had never uttered the word 'immigration'. Deliberately so. For Conte, the problem in the coming months will be to detoxify Italy from an issue wielded by outgoing Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, leader of the League, as a cudgel, and to transform it instead into one of the cornerstones of a renewed strategy with ***Europe.*** With the president of the ***EU*** Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, he believes he has a bonus for having been decisive in his election; and that he can spend it on a law on the ***European*** repatriation of migrants, and greater flexibility in spending: not easy objectives, but decisive in affirming a less muscular and more effective strategy than that of Salvini.

He had also avoided the word 'continuity', dear instead to the grillino leader Luigi Di Maio, preferring the politically aseptic word 'coherence', and reinforcing it with a promise of 'novelty' to appease the diffidence of Nicola Zingaretti's PD. But it was the entire long statement made after the hearing by Mattarella that underlined the metamorphosis of 'Professor Conte': from subordinate and almost anonymous executor of the will of M5S and Lega, to mediator in the negotiations with the ***EU*** Commission, to whipping Salvini. And now, at least in his intentions, he has become premier in the round. Of course, going from the head of the first populist-sovereignist government in Western ***Europe*** to the symbol of a majority between the Five Star and the Democratic Party is a huge leap.

Accusations of transformism abound. The feeling, however, is that Conte is trying to accredit not only a role but an even risky project: to build from Palazzo Chigi a political area and a bloc of interests of which the nascent government would be the laboratory. The image is that of a government technician: a neutral personality who owes nothing to the parties and who naturally embraces the international ties of all time. A year ago this would have been unthinkable. With a post-ideological movement, with no convictions other than a confused and Manichean anti-system impulse, indicating the ***EU*** and NATO as the pillars of its policy would have caused an earthquake.

Now, however, he is claiming it without fear of being excommunicated by a weakened and frightened grillism. It is not clear whether this is the result of an evolution by necessity of the Five Star. Evidently, Conte and his populist supporters have realised that going along with Salvini's anti-Europeanism would have led Italy to isolation; and, more prosaically, would have drained the votes of the M5S. When Salvini has been dismissed, however, the Prime Minister in charge must free himself from the label of longa manus of government grillism. The fallout of the crisis on his candidacy confirms an unusual ability to be in the right place at the right time.

But on political emancipation he will have to work harder. He is trying to explain to Zingaretti why he considers himself to be "super partes" and therefore not suspected of Pentastal partiality if he wants to have two deputies, one from the Democratic Party and a Di Maio bent on obtaining the post. He believes that having only one Dem exponent at the Palazzo Chigi would tarnish his neutrality. It is to be sworn that he will insist to the last. He is a marathon runner in negotiations: this was seen in Brussels when he avoided the infringement procedure against Italy for excessive debt. And this time his interest is to demonstrate that he is the 'real' prime minister, and the potential director of an array that the right is already tending to brand as a new 'popular front' of the left.

It is a way to delegitimise him beforehand in the eyes of the moderate electorate, and to complicate relations between the Movement that nominated him and the PD, which are already tense. The experience of fourteen months spent mediating between Salvini and Di Maio has left its mark on him. The harshness he used against his deputy in the Senate on 20 August can also be explained by his desire to vent long-suppressed anger. It is a film that Conte does not want to see again. He is terrified of witnessing a brawl between the M5S and the Democratic Party even before the executive is formed.

There are signs of it, but the aim is to sterilise it by asking the future coalition not to fight in the newspapers, to avoid armchair wars and contradictory proposals. To all eyes, this is the most uncertain aspect of his path. Yet he has no alternative if he wants to establish himself definitively as a leader and man of government, and build an alternative that does not crumble at the first shock. ***Europe*** and Atlantic loyalty may be a great prop, but they will not be enough without a simulacrum of internal cohesion, quality ministers and the ability to be the real point of reference.

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Possible contrasts in the programme

Cutting parliamentarians

and new electoral law

For the 5 Star Movement, cutting the number of MPs is the absolute priority, to the point of considering it a fundamental element of the government agreement. For the Democratic Party, the reduction can be made on condition that it is part of a broader package of constitutional and other reforms, starting with the electoral system.

The Security Decrees

to be corrected or deleted

The fate of the two security decrees strongly desired by the then Interior Minister Matteo Salvini is uncertain. For the 5 Star Movement, which voted for them, the most critical points can be revised (starting with the Quirinale's remarks), while the Democratic Party is demanding in no uncertain terms that they be cancelled.

The reform of the SCM

and the length of processes

The M5S is aiming to halve the time taken by the judiciary and to change the method of electing the SCM. These issues are contained in Minister Bonafede's reform concerning the statute of limitations and alternative measures to prison. The Yellow-Green government had modified the system launched by the then PD minister Orlando.

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Immigration (73%); Divorce + Dissolution (63%); Marriage Law (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Brexit, Parliament won't give up Corbyn and the rebels: we'll stop Boris; The lunge***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39R-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

30 August 2019 Friday

NATIONAL Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Page 12

**Length:** 472 words

**Byline:** M. Per.

**Highlight: There** is only one session, Tuesday, to block Johnson's plan and no deal. The 8 tribes of Westminster

**Body**

LONDON In 1993 John Major, the Conservative prime minister, described the domestic opposition - off microphones, he thought, but it was recorded - as the "bastards" wing. Different times: now Boris Johnson not only has the problem of Conservative "Remainers" who don't want Brexit and those who are in favour of Brexit but who absolutely want a deal with Brussels and would block a "no deal". Johnson - "King Boris" as they have been calling him since the day before yesterday, after he effectively shut down parliament - in addition to the old-fashioned "bastards" and the resignation in protest of the party leader in Scotland Ruth Davidson and George Young in the House of Lords, also has to deal with an indecipherable Parliament. And divided into eight "tribes", as the London newspapers call them, while we Italians, used to these things, have been calling them "currents" for ages. On Tuesday Parliament will open after the summer recess and, before being closed by Johnson between 11 and 13 September, to reopen a month later, it may have enough time to challenge the government.

There are the Conservative 'kamikazes' who are so opposed to Johnson that they are prepared to bring down the government, take the country to the polls - and be irretrievably expelled. There are the Conservative 'deal-makers' who are convinced that Johnson will manage to reach an agreement with ***Europe*** at the summit on 17 October, four days after the British Parliament reopens. The Times speculates that there are "dozens" of Conservative MPs ready to vote for anything that leads to an ***EU*** deal, or another delay. Among the 'deal-makers' there is a sub-group of loyalists to Theresa May who want to defend the agreement she has found: a 'no-deal' is unacceptable to May's team.

The Tory general staff are notoriously Oxford or Cambridge educated (Johnson has a degree in Greek and Latin), and so the 'Spartans' current could not be absent. They want out now, any delay or agreement is unacceptable, they want to blow up the "backstop" as Johnson says but they are to his right, practically a conservative current on the same positions as Nigel Farage and the most unhinged pro-Brexit people.

Then there is the 'Remain alliance', the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party, the Greens, the Welsh of Plaid Cymru. They were the hard core of possible support for a national unity government to stop Johnson: they got stuck on the name of the prime minister when Jeremy Corbyn, Labour leader, did not accept alternatives to his name (unacceptable to the rebel Tories). Yesterday Corbyn announced: 'We will try to stop Johnson politically on Tuesday with a parliamentary process to prevent a no deal Brexit'. Labour? Split between those in favour of Brexit with deal (only five voted for May's deal) and the hard-core Remainers.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Legislation (94%); Treaties + Agreements (89%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (73%); Gays + Lesbians (71%); Marriage (71%); Sentencing (71%); Weddings + Engagements (71%); Economic Growth (69%); Sweatshops (69%); Politics (68%); National Debt (67%)

**Industry:** Newspaper Publishing (69%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Del Bono: more Brescia in the government; Towards Conte-bis The mayor and the affinities between Pd and M5S functional to the city, starting with the environment. Refugees: no to goodism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K36V-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

30 August 2019 Friday

BRESCIA Edition

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**Section:** CRONICA DI BRESCIA V; Page 1

**Length:** 115 words

**Byline:** Pietro Gorlani

**Highlight:** "Political pact for the good of the country but the territory must weigh more in the future executive".

**Body**

"Environment, energy efficiency, rehabilitation of degraded suburbs, sustainable mobility, reduction of the tax wedge in favour of enterprises": for mayor Del Bono, the political agenda of the nascent Giallorossi executive (which he will strongly support) can be in tune with the future needs of the city: "It has avoided the umpteenth lacerating electoral campaign in a very delicate phase for the country, from the fiscal manoeuvre to relations with the ***EU***". At the same time, he hoped that Brescia's politicians would be able to carry "the weight they have not had for some time" in the next executive, called for firmness on the immigration issue, praised Prime Minister Conte and criticised Salvini: "He is incapable of managing his huge ego".

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%); Campaigns + Elections (82%); Economic Policy (68%); ***European*** Union (68%); Tax Law (62%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"You won't get rid of me" Salvini, the offensive of the squares; First Pontida, then Rome on 19 October "Disappointed by Mattarella, we needed the vote" And Orbán writes to him: our comrade Lega***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39P-00000-00&context=)

Corriere della Sera (Italy)

30 August 2019 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Page 11

**Length:** 590 words

**Byline:** Cesare Zapperi

**Highlight:** FdI president Meloni: "Why wait two months to do something on your own?"

**Body**

MILAN The flash consultations of the Prime Minister, whom he considers a "traitor", do not even touch him. In the mind of Matteo Salvini, who just yesterday said goodbye to the employees at the Viminale, there is the mobilisation of the square. Or rather, of the squares. The first, that of Pontida, where on 15 September, under the slogan "The strength to be free", the traditional rally invented by Umberto Bossi will be held, belongs to the historical-ideological heritage of the Carroccio. It is no coincidence that, on the eve of the event, Salvini will also gather all the Leghist administrators to whom he will entrust the watchwords in view of the deadlines of the coming months (the Regional elections in Umbria and Emilia-Romagna).

But it is the second square, Rome, that is closest to the heart of the Lega Nord leader. He announces that 19 October (not by chance, a week before the Umbrian elections) will be 'a great day of national pride'. In the intentions, it will have to give a sign of discontent with the Conte 2 government of the 'hard-working majority that doesn't go to make a mess but wants a government that is not born at night in Paris or Brussels and is rewarded for it'. Salvini spares no one: "I am disappointed by Mattarella, because I would have expected the vote, the right to vote for the Italians". Having failed even the attempts launched in extremis to "recover" former ally Di Maio, the Lega Nord leader is convinced that a completely new phase will now open. "A few months of healthy and strong opposition," he explained in the usual daily live broadcast on his Facebook page, "and then it's back to winning and governing without cages, without threats, to govern for many years, to restore pride and wealth to the Italian people.

He doesn't give the nascent Conte government a hard time: "They can run away for a few months or a few years - he attacks - but in the end they will find us ready, we will come back better equipped and more willing than before, sooner or later the Italians will present us with the bill. You certainly won't get rid of me. When asked if the Leghist committee chairmen will leave their posts in light of the move to the opposition, he replied bluntly: "In any country in the world, a government that is the result of an upheaval would have gone to elections and you come and talk to me about committee chairmanships...".

The decision to take to the streets was appreciated by Giorgia Meloni, who, however, did not spare him a small reproach: "Salvini is right that he has reconsidered, but what I wonder is: why wait two months to do something alone? The time to take to the streets is now". The president of Fratelli d'Italia invites the Carroccio leader to join the demonstration promoted by his party on the day the Chamber of Deputies votes on the government's confidence. Forza Italia is the one who is calling off the demonstrations. Berlusconi has said that the opposition will be republican and in the Senate - where the numbers of the majorities always fluctuate - the sirens could be heard for the support of Forza Italia on individual issues.

Salvini receives a letter from Hungary from Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. "Dear Matteo," the sovereignist leader writes to him, "I can assure you that we Hungarians will never forget that you were the first Western ***European*** leader to want to stop the flow of illegal migrants into ***Europe*** via the Mediterranean. And he assures him that "we consider you our ally and militant comrade in the fight to preserve ***Europe's*** Christian heritage and deal with migration".

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Immigration (93%); Riots (89%); Economic Crisis (87%); Tobacco + Health (87%); Campaigns + Elections (81%); Heads Of State + Government (76%); Politics (71%); Protests + Demonstrations (70%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (69%); National Debt (65%); Pensions + Benefits Law (65%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Conte's negotiations begin: it will not be a government against***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K395-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 2

**Length:** 562 words

**Byline:** Fabrizio Caccia

**Highlight:** The speech after the meeting with Mattarella. Today Salvini and Meloni forfeit their participation in the consultations The objective: "An executive under the sign of novelty and with a ***Euro-Atlantic*** position".

**Body**

ROME Fifty minutes of talks with Sergio Mattarella yesterday morning at the Quirinale, then Giuseppe Conte accepted the charge of the head of state to form the new M5S-Pd government. To dissolve the reserve, he will probably wait at least until Monday. In the middle of next week he is expected to return to the Colle and take the oath, for the second time in 15 months. "2019 will be beautiful," he said last February, but he was then the premier of the M5S-Lega yellow-green government.

Since yesterday everything has changed. And Conte made it clear in his investiture speech: "It will not be a government 'against' but a government 'for', a government in the name of novelty" with a "***Euro-Atlantic***" position, so as to put an end to sovereignism forever. Yesterday he spoke for nine and a half minutes: "I will immediately get to work on a manoeuvre that will counteract the VAT increase, protect savers...". He said: "We will work for a better country, a country with safe infrastructures, efficient networks, a country that is attractive to young people abroad, a country where everyone pays taxes, but everyone pays less...". He admitted his initial perplexity at "starting a new government experience with a different majority", which he then overcame "in the knowledge that he had always tried to work in the interest of everyone, no one excluded". And finally, here is the Professor's "signature": "I have often evoked the formula of a new humanism, and I never thought it was a government slogan but the ideal horizon of the country.

Yesterday, the market rewarded him, the stock market closed up, plus 1.94%, and the spread fell to 160 points and then closed at 168. And Zingaretti commented that with the results of the BTP auction alone, 'we will save ***€300*** million in interest'. Yet the last word has not yet been said. On its blog, M5S warns: "Making its members vote on fundamental choices is the method of the 5 Star Movement. In Germany, which like Italy is a parliamentary democracy, the SPD has always given its members the final say in approving the 'Grosse Koalition' with the Cdu. The leaders of the M5s group in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Stefano Patuanelli and Francesco D'Uva, yesterday rallied around Luigi Di Maio, whom Zingaretti would not like to see as deputy prime minister: "Whoever touches our political leader attacks each one of us.

Today Conte will conclude consultations with the main parties. He will also meet with Lega and Fratelli d'Italia, whose leaders Salvini and Meloni will not show up. The appointment is in the piazza. Meloni in front of Montecitorio (with Forza Nuova) on the day of the confidence in the new government. Salvini on 19 October in the capital. While Forza Italia is getting out of the way. Silvio Berlusconi is going to see Conte today and assures him: "Our opposition will be republican".

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Stages

The consultations of the Prime Minister in charge Giuseppe Conte continue. Today he will meet the groups of Fratelli d'Italia, Lega, Forza Italia, Pd and M5S.

Conte will then take some time to reflect, on Tuesday or Wednesday he should return to the Quirinale

to dissolve

the reserve

The Prime Minister and his ministers could be sworn in by the President of the Republic on Thursday.

The procedure then foresees the Prime Minister's scheduled speech to Parliament and the confidence of the two branches of Parliament. It will begin in Montecitorio

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Tobacco + Health (94%); Politics (73%); Tobacco Regulation + Policy (70%); Economic Policy (69%); Excise Tax (69%)

**Industry:** Budgets (63%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***All the pressure on Di Maio not to be deputy prime minister; M5S***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39G-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** POLITICS; Page 8

**Length:** 705 words

**Byline:** Alessandro Trocino

**Highlight:** Message exchanges with Dem leader Morra: none of us has personal ambition as a comet star

**Body**

ROME Keeping the bigwigs at bay, compacting the group, getting through the Rousseau vote unscathed and bringing home prestigious government posts. These are the four objectives of Luigi Di Maio, who in an interlocutory day, weaves the web to face the new challenge in the best possible way.

For now, in a government of reluctants, he is among the most reluctant to concede. Yesterday morning he exchanged a few WhatsApp messages with Nicola Zingaretti. Just to keep in touch, in view of the official opening of Conte's consultations, scheduled for today. He is waiting for a shared programme to materialise and, above all, for the reservation on his appointments to be lifted. In recent days he has feared that the president in charge Giuseppe Conte would give in to pressure from the Democratic Party. Now things have apparently changed and he still has high hopes. Pressure is being exerted from many quarters, both directly and indirectly, for him to give up his claim to the role of deputy prime minister. Some people are spreading the rumour that at this stage Di Maio should hold on to the Movement. He should therefore concentrate on his role as political leader. Even some parliamentarians, such as Luigi Gallo, have made it known that they are against the excessive concentration of powers. In Conte I, Di Maio combined the roles of M5S political leader, vice-premier, minister of labour and minister of economic development. In short, it is argued that Di Maio could step aside and that the vice-premier of the Movement, if ever granted by Conte, could be another M5S exponent. A strategy that would not displease the Pd either. This is nonsense, sources close to Di Maio shortened: "If there is, and there must be, the vice-premier will be him. No one else from the Movement.

And yet, an exponent of rank, Nicola Morra, basically makes more or less the same point when he says: "For my part, there is nothing irrational in asking for a vice-premier, but if this were to be the boulder weighing down on the possibility of giving the country solutions and answers to problems, I am sure that Luigi Di Maio and Giuseppe Conte will think of the solution most capable of protecting the rights of all. Luigi has said on several occasions that none of us has personal ambition as a comet". And this is what others are leveraging on: "He has said that he has renounced two premierships and does not want armchairs, why can't he also renounce this one?".

In any case, yesterday Di Maio, before taking a half-day's rest, worked on a draft with the issues to be proposed, first to the PD and then to Conte. At this stage, he is seeking maximum agreement with his own people. A strategy to keep the groups as united as possible. The night before last he had dinner with the two group leaders Patuanelli and D'Uva, the two lieutenants Fraccaro and Bonafede, Crimi, Dettori and Spadafora (as well as his girlfriend). And yesterday he met the committee leaders. The decision-making group has expanded to include, from time to time, other bigwigs such as Paola Taverna and Morra himself. It is an attempt to keep everyone under control, which does not include the Movement's heavy hitters: Beppe Grillo and Alessandro Di Battista.

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Stages

The flop in the ***European*** elections

and the confirmation of the leader

The ***European elections*** on 26 May marked a clear setback for the 5 Star Movement, which obtained 17.1% (in the 2018 elections it had reached 32.7%). Political leader Luigi Di Maio put his mandate to the activists' vote on the Rousseau platform: he was reconfirmed.

1

Di Battista's criticism

and reorganisation plans

After the vote for the ***Europarliament***, a period of tension begins in the green-yellow executive. Di Maio's line towards the League was judged too soft by a well-known face of the M5S, Alessandro Di Battista. After a series of defeats in the regional elections, Di Maio announced a reorganisation of the movement.

2

The Carroccio break

and the start of dialogue with the PD

The clash within the government has escalated and Di Maio has also raised the level of controversy with the League leader. When Salvini decided to break away, the M5S political leader accused him of not being "loyal". The Movement began negotiations with the PD, about which Di Maio was initially among the most dubious.

3

**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Surveillance (94%); Politics (92%); Hazardous Waste (88%); Teaching + Teachers (86%); Felonies (77%); Immigration (77%); Minority Groups (65%); Riots (63%)

**Industry:** Telecommunications (75%); Satellite Industry (64%)

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"Forza Italia must not ally itself with the sovereignists"; Former minister Rotondi***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-N3K1-JDMV-K39N-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** NEWS; Page 11

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** Alessandra Arachi

**Body**

ROME 'Salvini didn't understand that he shouldn't go against the party of wives and umbrellas...'.

What is Gianfranco Rotondi saying?

"That you don't have a crisis in August. However, I contrasted the "Papeete" with the Lido Mare in Pineto".

You too at the console?

"No, on the phone with my political contacts. The management of this moment is very important".

And what did you concoct on the phone from the Lido Mare?

"The first fundamental point: never with the sovereignists. The moderates have never allied themselves with the right, look at the EPP in ***Europe***: Merkel allies herself with the socialists, not the right. In fact, when Forza Italia formed an alliance with Alleanza Nazionale, it first waited for Fini's turnaround in Fiuggi, which turned AN into a reformist party".

So who should Forza Italia ally itself with?

"He will not need to ally himself with anyone".

How do you mean?

"If I'm not mistaken, the first point in the programme of the government that is being formed is to cut the number of members of parliament, and this law introduces a corrective to the majority, that is, a proportional electoral law. That is why there will no longer be the issue of alliances. We are going back to the past.

How so?

"When the Christian Democrats went to the voters, they didn't need to say that they would ally themselves with Craxi's PSI".

Nostalgia for the 'White Whale'?

"Let's say that the nostalgia is more for that Italian Party of the historian Agostino Giovagnoli. This is what I would like to suggest to Silvio Berlusconi.

To form the Italian Party?

"Yes. Forza Italia should make a great call to arms of all the great political cultures of the twentieth century in a moderate key. With a great ambition".

What ambition?

"This call to arms must have the ambition to make us the first party".

Have you already discussed this with Silvio Berlusconi?

"Not yet. In the meantime, fundamental for the realisation of this project is an act of courage: the irrevocable cancellation of any alliance with the sovereignists.

Do you see this danger?

"More than glimpsing it I fear it, it would make us lose too much support. Although so far Berlusconi is distancing himself abundantly from the sovereignists. Even in the form of the opposition."

What does that mean?

"Matteo Salvini and Giorgia Meloni I understand will not participate in the consultations. Berlusconi will. But not only."

What else?

"The leader of Fratelli d'Italia and the leader of the League have already called for a protest in the square. Better, they have even already called for it. My Forza Italia leader has not.

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**Classification**

**Language:** ITALIAN; ITALIANO

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** CORSERA

**Subject:** Politics (94%)

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