

Three players and a ghost.

by Riccardo Nencini

Right after the end of the Second World War, Thomas Mann sent a warning to his country. It was time for Germany to get European, and not the other way around. More recently, Joschka Fischer highlighted the same concept: "European integration represents the solution for all the contradictions Germany experienced during their history". They are right. When Germany got unified, English people considered the event far more important than the French revolution, in relation to its effects throughout and right in the heart of the continent. This is the way it is today. Thanks to their military power before; since Kohl's arrival to their economic strength.

A European Union merely based on the centralization of the economical and financial institutions, especially when under an inscrutable oligarchy, can only play a marginal role in the globalization, unless a federal imprint is soon given. And that's a fact. I am afraid Germany is going to sort of avoid this matter. *Rebus sic stantibus* ("This thus standing") it remains a privileged country, even if it already appeared to be an obsolete condition, revealed by the "Greece situation". The future of a strong political Europe is mainly in the hands of Berlin. But no smart move is expected this time.

Tsipras, after the referendum, conquered the field. That is at home, but rather different appear to be the relations with the European leaders. Granting something "far more" substantial, they say, would support the anti-European organizations and the radical left wing. So I need to know: how having a potential Cuba in our Mediterranean sea could be any worthwhile? How encouraging the requests of Putin could turn to be advantageous? How triggering an evil mechanism, which would further damage an already weak Union, would seem favourable? By Sunday an agreement is expected: bilateral concessions, without changing though a worn-out and ineffective game scheme.

The third player is Europe: it's tired, caught between the anvil of the sovereign powers of the Union and the hammer of the stationary democracies, which seem to have a stronger national community identity, due to the crisis and the constant push of the migrants. In order to solve the dilemma, a new anchoring pact is needed in order to shape a European federation and suitable instruments to reach globalization. If Merkel gives up. Europe will have to take over from there. Looking towards east.

History faults will devour one, unless one manages to handle the great changes. A political organization rooted in Europe, such as PSE, chose silence in order to face such a humongous crisis: this had never occurred before. Difficulties spread and faced by the South-European socialisms supported the alignment of German social-democracy, and far more, on opinions inspired by a lethal prudence and a sort of "rigor" as the one and only mantra. In any case, the strategy has to be updated. The border between right and left wing moved, but it is still well profound. Training and redistribution of wealth, more trenchant forms of participation of the citizens to the government, access to the sources of knowledge and political Europe are interpreted in a different way, in relation to that borderline. Even the topic "migrants" definitely needs a

rereading. Whoever lives with us has to adopt a criterion according to which equality, individual rights, enjoyment of freedom and civil responsibility have to be respected and employed. Multiculturalism doesn't mean to let habits and customs prevail on laws and values which have been achieved in two centuries filled with parliamentary fights and street protests.

Before such deep social and cultural changes, PSE became voiceless. And I am afraid also captive of the "German factor".

A Bad Godesberg of the European left wing is what needs to be achieved. Before the Spanish election day.