MOVIMENTO EUROPEO
CONSIGLIO ITALIANO

IL PRESIDENTE

European turmoil in an earthquake-ridden world

What has happened in the last few days in Seoul and Damascus has offered us the image of a further earthquake-ridden world that has momentarily pushed the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East into the background, but the turmoil will certainly have an effect beyond the Korean and Syrian borders.

The jubilant crowds that celebrated, outside the mosques and away from Islamist influence, the end of the Assad regimes that had seized power in 1971 might finally find followers in the neighbouring culture of Persia where the Iranian dictatorship of the Ayatollahs - allied to Assad's violence, Hamas and Hezbollah - has suffered one defeat after another and will not be able to take refuge in an improbable nuclear deterrence in the face of the yearning for freedom that could drag the courage of Persian women into all the squares to the cry of the Syrian rebels "*religion is for God and the State is for all*" in a new Arab spring that demands our solidarity and our concrete and immediate support.

What effect will the Syrian uprising have in the region but also with respect to the other actors that have been the protagonists of international politics so far such as Russia fleeing with its tail between its legs from Damascus, Turkey and its relations with the Kurdish diaspora, Israel and its current and future allies in Washington, the terrorism of Hamas losing its main supporter, the insignificant Palestinian Authority, the variegated and divided Arab world playing on the two tables of Islamic fundamentalism and the corrupt financial/military complicities with the West?

Is what happened in South Korea just the result of a headshake by President Yoon after the ousting of Park Geun-hye in 2016 or will the investigation highlight the risks of external and internal interference in a region where Taiwan's fate is unknown and the future power in Washington is expected to emerge from silence in the ambiguous relations with China conditioned by Beijing's preferential treatment offered to Elon Musk?

Outside the European Union but close to its borders, the last few days have offered the disturbing image of external influences in Georgia, not forgetting the pro-Russian sympathies of the Serbian Government applying for EU membership and, within its borders, external interference in Romania and Viktor Orban's unacceptable complicity with Vladimir Putin.

Instead, in this earthquake-ridden world, the European Union navigates by sight between its internal turmoil with the European Council and the Council of the Union blocked by the paralysis of the gear in the Franco-German engine and with the European Parliament in which the group leaders (EPP, S&D, Liberals, Greens, Left and ECR) look like the comedians in Luigi Pirandello's "*Six Characters in Search of an Author*" in the absence of the prompter who, in the theatre, has the job of reading the script to remind the actors

of their lines and the noisy but politically irrelevant presence of patriots and sovereignists.

Despite the difficult political transition from one legislature to the next, the European Commission has apparently taken advantage of the vacuum in the Council of the Union and the European Parliament:

- to assert its role of almost exclusive competence in trade policy with the agreement reached in Montevideo on 6 December by Ursula von der Leyen and the five Mercosur countries for a mega-pact involving 780 million people (and which Sergio Mattarella called "*a vehicle for peace*") and which would anticipate a common response to Donald Trump's threat to dismantle the WTO
- to confirm that the rules and timetable on the transition from fossil fuels to non-polluting energies in the transport sector (non-endothermic cars) will not be changed,
- to announce that the future cohesion policy from 2028 to 2032 will be based not only on the spending capacities of the member States but also on internal reforms (and respect for the Rule of law) as was already the case with the NGEU.

We expect the same determination to be affirmed by the European Commission in the digital transition and social sustainability, in the financial translation into resources and policies for public goods guaranteed by the multiannual budget by abandoning the suggestions of a priority "*war economy*" and embracing instead the idea of a defence at the service of peace, in a new inclusive and value-based vision of the public space of freedom and justice also with regard to migrants and asylum seekers, and in the commitment to a European constitutional reform that precedes and makes possible the future enlargement of the European Union.

Lastly, we expect the entire European Union to emerge from its deafening silence in the earthquake-ridden and disorderly world by adopting earthquake-proof rules and policies for itself and for the rest of the planet in a logic of continuity with the "*Pact for the Future*" adopted on 22 September 2024 by the United Nations Global Summit and addressed to the young generations.

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