



The voice of Maria Dolens

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COP26

Something is moving

The UN annual meeting devoted to implementing measures to contain climate change (referred to with the acronym CoP26), was held in Glasgow in November, and resulted, as expected, in a heated debate between participating parties. With shared concern for the objective deterioration of living conditions on planet Earth, opinions differed, and greatly so, regarding measures and relative times of adoption, measures that in the future might impede the worrying situation which is represented, as is widely publicised, by the phenomenon of accentuated overheating of our «common home», to use that endearing term coined by the former Russian President Michail Gorbachev, even if it was used in a decidedly more political context. In summary, in an increasingly complex intertwining of tiring negotiations, of commitments undertaken but not substantiated as well as agreements immediately contradicted by the facts, the discussion - often resulting in open confrontation -

in the Scottish football city, home of the arch-rival teams Celtic and Rangers, has developed on a double level.

The first involved the nearly 200 official delegations, representing the distinct “clubs” of industrialized states, developing countries and the so-called “Group of 77”. By way of brief explanation, the latter have the bad luck of belonging to the countries that are most at risk in terms of future survival, either because of the endemic lack of resources to be administered or, in some cases, as a result of particular geographical location (if we consider those at sea level, threatened by the feared rise of water levels). In the current world economic and industrial context, energy sources with a high rate of pollution (primarily coal, but without neglecting oil and its derivatives) are still predominantly used today (over 50% of the total) in the production of goods, both for the abundance of raw materials and for their low costs of revenue and use.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH THE COORDINATOR OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Mutual contamination

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

On November 17, Italy assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of Europe (CoE). This is an important responsibility, which, however, is not always fully understood by those not working in this field. This is why we asked Ambassador Valeria Biagiotti, coordinator of the task force for the Italian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, to define the terms of the commitment. «It is a precious opportunity to play a guiding and impulsive role in the work of the organization, trying to advance all the reports on the table, naturally starting with those we have identified as priorities», she replied, highlighting that «The CoE plays a key

role in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, both in Europe and in the broader multi-lateral architecture, thanks to its unique framework of conventions and legal instruments, which also attract non-member states. Furthermore, the presidency is an appointment that happens very rarely, in fact the last one took place in 2000, over 20 years ago».

Among the objectives that the Italian presidency has set itself, the first is to «reaffirm the shared principles and values of the Council of Europe». There are many initiatives in this sense, in particular we would like to focus on the methods devised to emphasize the potential of cultural heritage as a tool for dialogue and social inclusion.

I will answer this question by giving the example of one of the success stories in this area: the 'European Cultural Routes' launched by the Council of Europe. There are 45 routes with a common theme that may be religious, historical, scenic, architectural or gastronomic, related to intangible heritage or linked to great figures of European art, music or literature. The Routes uni-

te different countries, representing a platform for intercultural dialogue from which to value common identities. They remind the European peoples that their interaction, mutual contamination and intercultural dialogue, but also economic exchanges, were not just born in 1949, but are the distinctive characteristics of millenary civilizations, bestowed with pronounced attributes of affinity, despite their variegated cultural identity.

As regards the emancipation of women, in recent months we have had to see some withdrawals from the signing of the Istanbul Convention. How are we trying to increase the number of signatory countries?

To begin with, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on November 25, a joint declaration was signed by the Secretary General of the CoE, Marija Pejcinovic Buric, and by the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities, Elena Bonetti on the importance of the Convention as an instrument to combat violence in all its forms, including that perpetrated on the web. In



Ambassador Valeria Biagiotti

light of the profound impact that the pandemic has had on women, recording a dramatic increase in episodes of domestic violence, gender abuse and a significant decrease in the participation of women in the labour market, Italy intends to promote a broader reflection on the issue of female *empowerment* and the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination, in the context of the Council of Europe also through a high-level event on this issue in April.

In order to guarantee «a future centred on people», the aim was to address the challenges posed by new technologies. What are the dangers involved and what are the prospects that open up?

Italy intends to promote a broad reflection on the issue of female empowerment and the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination

The profound transformations we are experiencing in our societies due to digital technologies, and artificial intelligence in particular, offer enormous opportunities regarding the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedom, economic development, progress in the health sector, circulation of information and education. At the same time, artificial intelligence can pose significant risks to our societies, also in terms of human rights violations and abuse as well as challenges to democracy and the rule of law. For example, improper use of algorithms could lead to discrimination based on ethnicity, gender or age. For this reason, we believe it is useful to have a clear and shared framework of rules so as to address the risks associated with the development and use of these technologies. In this regard, we believe that the CoE is a particularly suitable forum for examining such potential threats and proposing adequate



safeguards in order to defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the protection and promotion of which represent the *core business* of the organization and for which it has developed an unrivalled expertise.

What are the direct and indirect effects that the initiatives of the Italian presidency could have on civil society?

We hope that there will be raised awareness in civil society regarding the values and activities that have been carried out since 1949. Although this organization plays a fundamental role in the daily life of each citizen through the European Court of Human Rights and the numerous conventions and activities, the Council of Europe is still not very well-known and is often confused with the European Union, in particular with the European Coun-

cil. We have organized a series of initiatives during the term aimed specifically at increasing the knowledge of the CoE by a wider audience, starting with the Italian public. In particular, we intend to address the younger generations, so that they may be aware of their rights from the start and of what the organization does to promote them.

And finally, we come to what is the “core business” of the Rovereto Peace Bell. Among the objectives of the Italian presidency is that of raising awareness in the international community «on the crucial role of education in supporting peace, the protection of human rights and the rule of law». What are the initiatives in this regard?

As I mentioned, we intend to commit ourselves to promoting greater knowledge of the Council of

Europe, its principles and values, starting with the European Convention on Human Rights. For example, the Ministry of Education has launched a competition for primary and secondary schools, to invite students to reflect on the tasks and functioning of the CoE and on the importance of education to the knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedom. A Forum will also be organized in Turin, with the participation of young people from all countries of the Council of Europe, on human rights education and democratic citizenship. Other initiatives will be coordinated to support human rights education for different age groups, from infancy to universities. We have anticipated a wide-ranging commitment, which will not end once the presidency is over but which we also intend to maintain in the future.

Artificial intelligence can pose significant risks to our societies, in terms of human rights violations and challenges to democracy



HAPPENING AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Putting people at the centre

ITALY ASSUMES THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY

Respect for human rights. This is how, we could summarize the objectives of the Italian presidency of the Council of Europe, which began with the handover from Hungary during a meeting in Strasbourg on 17 November in the presence of representatives of the 47 member states. After more than twenty years, Rome is once again addressing the priorities of the continent's main international organization that deals with democracy and the rule of law. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio attended the ceremony by announcing that the program for the next six months includes more than thirty events (listed in these pages) and is di-

vided into three main areas. The first objective will be to reinforce the promotion of human rights, with special attention to women and young people particularly exposed to violations and discrimination that have worsened in the context of the pandemic. Secondly, Italy's intention is to encourage a common commitment to the shared values and principles of the Council of Europe, focusing attention on the protection of cultural heritage as an instrument for promoting the common identity of the member states, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion. Finally, Rome intends to focus on the issue of the risks and opportunities that the development and use of

artificial intelligence pose to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. During the ceremony, Di Maio also presented the celebratory stamp dedicated to the six-month presidency. A special tram in the colours of the Italian flag was also inaugurated, which will be active in Strasbourg until May

2022. «In the same year of the presidency of the G20 and the co-presidency of the CoP26, for our country it is another occasion of prestige and responsibility», wrote Di Maio in a Facebook post, highlighting how Italy intends to «build a future that has people at the centre».



PRESIDENZA ITALIANA
DEL COMITATO DEI MINISTRI
DEL CONSIGLIO D'EUROPA
ITALIA
LP.Z.S. s.p.a. - ROMA - 2021



PRESIDENZA ITALIANA
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The celebratory stamp dedicated to the six-month Presidency of Italy



Artificial intelligence will be one of the issues that Italy will put on the agenda at the Council of Europe

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|------------|---|
| 06-07 | December 2021 | Rome | Conference on integrity and sport |
| 10 | December 2021 | Rome | CIDU Human rights award |
| 13-14 | December 2021 | Venice | Conference of the Ministers of Justice on "Crime and Criminal Justice – The role of restorative justice in Europe" |
| 24-28 | January 2022 | Strasbourg | First-Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) |
| 24-25 | January 2022 | Pisa | Joint meeting of the working groups on "quality of justice" (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) and on "cyber justice" (CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST) of the European Commission for Efficiency of Justice" (CEPEJ) |
| 03 | February 2022 | Vienna | Presentation of Presidency's priorities to the OSCE Permanent Council |
| 22 | February 2022 | online | Conference on Health Equity and Social Resilience |
| 23 | February 2022 | Rome | Award ceremony of the students' contest "The Semester of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe" |
| 15-18 | March 2022 | Rome | Plenary meeting of CDADI (Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion), preceded by a high-level institutional segment |
| 19 | March 2022 | Rome | LGBT focal points meeting |
| 23 | March 2022 | Rome | "School ReGeneration" event on education for environmental sustainability at schools |
| 14-25 | March 2022 | New York | Side Event on the occasion of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations |
| 22-24 | March 2022 | Strasbourg | Participation in the 41st session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities by the Minister of Regional Affairs and Autonomy Maria Stella Gelmini |
| 28 | March 2022 | Rome | Event on "Business and human rights" |
| 30 | March 2022 | Rome | Event on a multidisciplinary approach for the age assessment of unaccompanied migrant children |
| 30 | March 2022 | Strasbourg | Ministerial meeting on the role of culture, heritage and landscape for sustainable development and democracy |
| 04 | April 2022 | Rome | High level event on the impact of artificial intelligence on human rights |
| 06 | April 2022 | Rome | Event "Citizens and science as a tool to strengthen democracy" |
| 07-08 | April 2022 | Rome | High-level launching conference for the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) |
| 11-14 | April 2022 | Turin | Youth Forum "Education for human rights and democratic citizenship of the Council of Europe in the post-pandemic" |
| 12 | April 2022 | Rome | High level event on work-life balance in the perspective of women empowerment |
| 22 | April 2022 | Rome | <i>Lectio magistralis</i> of the President of the European Court of Human Rights Robert Spano |
| 25-29 | April 2022 | Strasbourg | Second-Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) |
| 05-06 | May 2022 | Palermo | Meeting of the Prosecutors General of the Council of Europe "Prosecutors between independence and accountability" |
| 12-13 | May 2022 | Strasbourg | Conference in "Octopus" format on the Cybercrime Convention and opening for signature of the second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention |
| 17-18 | May 2022 | Rome | Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group meeting with a special segment on "rape drugs" and sexual violence against women |
| 20 | May 2022 | Italy | Committee of Ministers at ministerial level |



HAPPENING AT THE UNITED NATIONS

«The world hurts me»

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Almost all countries in the world are members of the United Nations and should adhere to the ideals they represent. World Human Rights Day, set for December 10, should therefore serve no purpose. There is no disagreement on the fact that all human beings have the same dignity and should have the same right to life, personal freedom and security. Nobody is still openly in favour of slavery or torture. Just saying it in public would cause an outcry everywhere. When we move from statements of principle to facts however, things change. Some begin to wonder if a child who sews shoes in a basement for 18 hours a day is in a state of slavery or not while others are convinced that obtaining information from a suspect using coercive methods is not only not a crime, but serves to ensure our safety.

In some areas of the world, the perimeter of freedom is constantly shrinking and respect for principles that are believed to be shared often becomes just a facade. The rules are interpreted and filtered through the cultural peculiarities of each place and global political guidelines are added to this that over the decades have slowed down the effective adoption of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is enough to consider the Cold War, the discrimination of the 1950s in the United States, apartheid in South Africa, dictatorial regimes in Africa or Asia and, more recently, Islamic fundamentalism and the coronavirus pandemic, which have highlighted contrasts, always latent, exposing them once more. In this sort of 'compass' of humanity that is the Declaration, it is written in article 1 that «all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights». Up to here, it is a question of claiming something, and we are all

in agreement. But then it is specified that we must act «towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood». It is at this point, that problems arise, because this is a duty that implies the need to change one's attitude, to open up to others. Always difficult, but almost unthinkable when we find ourselves in difficulty. For this reason, every time an economic, political, health or social crisis emerges, the first to see their rights undermined are the poorest, those who actually need protection the most. It is easy to be generous with a full stomach, but when the bread begins to run out, idealism is quickly put aside. «The world hurts me» sang Giorgio Gaber listing the injustices of the planet, but he added: «What hurts me more than anything else is the fact that once my tooth hurts, the world no longer hurts me». It's natural, it's human, but it doesn't work. We should continue to bear injustice even at the dentist. Or at least on December 10th.

COP26

Something is moving

To be continued on page 1...

Even against the background of the existing phase of international recession resulting from the prolonged pandemic, for countries that use coal extensively (China, India, essentially all the “emerging” countries that have it, but also technologically advanced nations, such as the United States), the climatic and environmental priorities are inevitably destined to confront the need to maintain, on an external front, competitiveness on the markets and, on an internal front, employment levels, which are susceptible, one as the other, to suffer the negative consequences of transition processes towards the green economy, certainly virtuous but considered too accelerated.

The second, on the other hand, opposed the group of official representatives (with the various distinctions of interests and sentiments mentioned above) to the variegated, colourful and “very vocal” world of environmental associations, which flocked massively to Glasgow, also to answer the call of recognized “icons” of pro-climate culture, such as Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate among others. Giving rise to a sort of “permanent mobilization”, the gatherings of young (and older) protesters spread rapidly to squares spanning the five continents, reaching levels of participation that most probably had previously been unheard of. With regard to this line-up, driven by an almost “messianic” fervour in relation to the absolute urgency of the alternative measures

required to allow the planet to survive, there was no doubt that the UN meeting was dubbed a “total failure”, not to mention a “deliberate betrayal”.

With a less emotional and more objective analysis of the CoP26, also taking into account the existence of immensely distant starting positions, a less radical judgment may be attributed, attenuated as necessary (the first to show himself publicly disappointed was, significantly, the British president of the Convention, Alok Sharma) so as not to be entirely negative. By far the most anticipated and important result, that of banning the use of coal, has failed - and it must be acknowledged - due to the intransigence of some, in particular India. However, no country has questioned the urgent recommendation by scientists to set the maximum limit allowed for global warming by 2030 at 1.5 degrees. In addition, the participating States have pledged to present national plans for further reduction of harmful emissions within the next year, to allocate funding, to impart new generation technology to less developed countries and to eliminate public aid for “inefficient” fossil fuels. Significant agreements have likewise been reached in

various sectors, also for example in relation to combating deforestation processes as well as the contingent use of methane gas.

To conclude, John Kerry must be recognized for a truly extraordinary commitment to allow the exercise to end with the adoption of a document signed unanimously (the so-called Glasgow Climate Pact) and not, such as on the occasion of the Copenhagen CoP in 2009, with a sensational standstill. The words of the US envoy seem representative of a sufficiently shared mood. “We have never been so close to avoiding climate chaos,” declared the former US secretary of state at the conclusion of the meeting.

In the absence of success at the first attempt, the title of a well-known film by one of his illustrious compatriots, Woody Allen, urges the protagonist to “play it again, Sam”. In the case of climatic-environmental issues, the next meeting of CoP27 has been set in one year exactly and will take place in Egypt.

While we wait, in the name and to the sound of “Maria Dolens”, Happy Holidays to all!

Reggente Marco Marsilli, Foundation President

«We have never been so close to avoiding climate chaos», declared United States envoy John Kerry at the conclusion of the work

MUKY'S “ANTI-CONFORMIST NATIVITY SCENES”

There is an artist who, around October, stops to reflect on what has happened of late and summarizes it in a nativity scene and she has done this almost every year for three decades. Her name is Wanda Berasi, but in the 1950s the fact that a woman was creative did not convince everyone. She decided to give herself a name that didn't reveal her gender and so she became Muky. When attention was focused on the actual works more than on the person who made them, international success arrived. She remained there, reflecting on the horrors of the world and condensing them in an artistic vision. Without political proposals or mobilizations. She is an artist: she reveals, reports, creates. She does it at the end of each year because then Christmas comes, a metaphor for hope even for non-believers. This is how *Cambogia. Colori e Trincea* (Cambodia. Colours and

the Trench) was born in 1989, *Kuwait. Il mio sangue sanguina sul sangue* (Kuwait. My blood bleeds on blood) in 1990 and in 1991 *Sud Marocco. Aiutami-strillo fra i crisantemi* (South Morocco. Help me-I scream among the chrysanthemums) gradually spanning the decades to the ever topical *Crosta Terrestre. Inquinamento/respiro meccanico di Gesù* (The Earth's Crust. Pollution/mechanical breath of Jesus) in 2000 or *Usa-Afghanistan. L'attacco su New York e Washington* (USA-Afghanistan. The attack on New York and Washington) in 2001. All on display at the Bell until January 6, 2022.

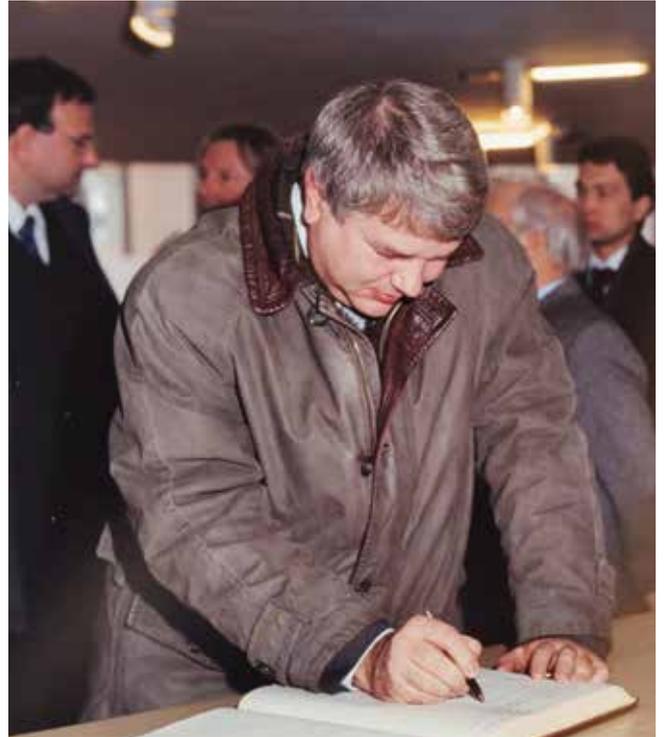


Muky, «1990 Kuwait. My blood bleeds on blood» (detail)

IT HAPPENED TODAY

Moscow and Strasbourg at the Colle

December 5, 2005: Visit to the Bell by Alexey Meshkov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation



December 27, 2010: Visit to the Bell by the Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg Nawel Rafik-Elmrini