



The voice of Maria Dolens

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The good news

For a European continent torn apart for more than three months by a devastating armed conflict and desperately looking for a negotiated solution that prevents the current crisis from taking on even more disruptive forms, one of its most representative countries, France, provided us with some awaited "good news".

In the ballot round of last April 24, outgoing President Emmanuel Macron was, in fact, confirmed in office for a further five years, clearly prevailing (although not exactly formidably) over the far-right rival, Marine Le Pen, by now a regular. The vote was characterized by a particularly high abstention rate (28 per cent), the highest in the history of the country.

At the helm of France, which is in second place in the EU in terms of gross domestic product and the only one of the 27 member states to possess nu-

clear weapons (the well-known *force de frappe*), is a recognized champion of liberal democracy and a convinced supporter of European integration. That Macron has remained - especially in these times - is a reason not only for satisfaction but also relief. The fact, then, that he considers Italy an essential ally represents an element of undoubted reassurance. Our country which is often in search of a more adequate international visibility is considered by Macron both on the bilateral level (with reference to the recent "Quirinal Treaty") and in Brussels when important choices are made by the various institutions.

In confirmation of this, let us think for a moment on the measures - as announced during the election campaign - that Marine Le Pen would have implemented, once installed in the Elysée.

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THE FLAG OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IS RAISED

Peace is not a naïve aspiration

Robert Schuman's declaration of May 9, 1950 opens with an invocation for world peace. Europe has brought war to many parts of the world, even the two world wars were born in the old continent. For this reason, the founding fathers felt the responsibility not only to guarantee peace among the European peoples, but also to make Europe the messenger of peace throughout the world.

This Europe cannot be built all at once, as Jean Monnet taught us. It requires patience. None of the great political feats were completed in a single moment. This is true of our states and the rights we enjoy which have been built through years, decades, centuries, battles, hardships and sufferings. But it is still not enough in that « creative efforts » are also needed, as said by Schuman. For this we need the

new generations: we must not only remember, but also invent new things. In the face of war and poverty there is no manual with instructions, we need to multiply the relationships between us and to highlight the things we have in common.

«Community - said De Gasperi - is that place where we are in solidarity with the other members of which it is composed ». And in order to create a community, Schuman's intuition was to establish some things in common to prevent us from waging war among ourselves. In particular, the smelting of coal and steel.

It is fitting to bear in mind that declaration under the Bell, since the Bell is also the product of a fusion, of the same intuition: putting together what divides us, the instruments of war, so that it becomes an instrument of Peace.

Harmonious coexistence is like a path that must pass through respect for suffering

Maria Dolens, however, also reminds us of pain, she reminds us that peace is not a naïve aspiration and that it does not arise from the refusal to look at the evil of the world. The Rovereto Peace Bell and the European Union convey peace as a path that passes through respect for suffering. Right now, we are thinking of Ukraine and the victims of an aggression that can on no account be justified.

The United Nations stresses that aggression may never be justified for any economic, political or social reason. This is the international law that we laid down and also for this reason, in the face of the attack, Ukraine has been able to transform pain into an extraordinary desire for Europe.

It is no coincidence that the flag of Europe is made up of a blue background with stars that symbolize diversity and harmony. There are not many flags that have chosen the color of the sky. And what the sky might mean was made clear by De Gasperi while writing «behind the bars of the prison, I am looking for a piece of blue sky». The flag of Europe is meant to be a piece of heaven to which we can look in terms of what it represents with regard to the desire for freedom.

Europe is not just a continent but is a way of life in which there is respect for human dignity and freedom for all alongside peace.

Michele Nicoletti, representative of the European Union
(transcription from the speech)

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THE FIRST HUNDRED

It is a simple melody, which we all know, that which was chosen to represent the European Union: Beethoven's Ode to Joy taken from his Ninth Symphony, referred to simply as "the ninth". The text was written by Friedrich von Schiller in 1785 and expresses an idealistic vision of the brotherhood of men. Beautiful, but unnecessary. That moment of the symphony is so engraved in the collective memory that words become superfluous. In fact, when the Council of Europe, in 1972, and the European Union, in 1985, adopted this particular piece of Beethoven as their anthem they decided that the music alone was enough to express the ideals of liberty, peace and solidarity. An air that resounded at the Colle on 9 May last, while the European flag was hoisted on the flagpole next to Maria Dolens. With this there are now one hundred flags representing one hundred countries and organizations that have signed up to the Peace Memorandum pledging to put the pursuit of human rights as pivotal in their journey. Moreover, if «the peoples of Europe, in creating an ever-closer union among them-

selves, have decided to share a future of Peace», as we read in the introduction to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed on 7 December 2000 in Nice and adopted on 12 December 2007 in Strasbourg, then they should feel right at home at the Colle di Miravalle.

Together with the Foundation President, Marco Marsilli, and local and international authorities, there were hundreds of young people listening to Beethoven, namely students who approached the event in different ways, thereby enriching the significance of the anniversary. In these pages you will find an overview of the work carried out within the «Progetto Ambasciatori» (Ambassadors Project), organized by the Antonio Megalizzi Foundation, and with the «Schools beyond Regions and Borders» initiative which involves 7 Nations.

Of course, young people were to be at the center of everything, since it is they who have «the right and the duty to build a new Europe», as Councilor for Education, University and Culture of the Province of Trento, Mirko Bisesti, highlighted in his speech.

History speaks

«World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it». This sentence is part of a speech given by the French Foreign Minister Robert Schumann on 9 May 1950 when he announced the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community, now known the European Union.

And that is why we think it is even more important to talk about the European Union to-

day, the European Union we want, the Eu we want to live in.

Quoting Antonio when he was asked «Why the European Union?». He answered: «Because history speaks: consequences without the Eu would be unthinkable and essentially tragic». Antonio fell in love with the European Union as he realised how important it is in our daily life, how it affects every single aspect of it, how our history positively changed due to it. However, Antonio immediately caught also the difficulty of the Eu to properly communicate itself. Both the positive aspects that must be enhanced, as well as the negative aspects that must be addressed.

After the Strasbourg attack in December 2018, in which he lost his life, we decided to continue his work and amplify his voice again. So we created the Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi in order to promote, organise and support initiatives and events to carry on Antonio's European dream. The scope of the Foundation is to encourage education and to promote a culture of legality, by fostering the development of critical thinking, public participation and an ethical sense in the community.

For this reason since last year we have created the «Ambassadors Project», that gives centrality to young people. Now, the call is open and every university student can apply and be part of this project. Both the "Ambassadors" and the young students that are

taking part in this first edition of the Project are enthusiastic and we are so proud to see how they work with curiosity, passion and sense of commitment. Most of all, it is of the utmost importance that they recognise their role of citizens in the present and the future of the European union.

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This is the reality we live in, we must be aware that we can be involved in every aspect of it and we can make a difference.

Soon we will go by the Bell to celebrate this day and remember some of european founding fathers and mothers, son and daughters.

Then, we will continue to study and discover the European Union and some of you will carry out the simulation of the European Parliament.

What you are doing here today is another extraordinary democratic exercise: young people coming from different countries, working on some of the most important issues at the European level, approaching the decision-making process with preparedness and willpower, creating a strong network of young citizens that own the keys to the future.

Luana Moresco, president of the Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi



Courage, patience and generosity

Europe would not live long if its union were simply the result of a sum of interests. Individuals who consider history only from this point of view always have a narrow vision which is essentially based on their own interests. With this logic, it took only 20 years for the second global conflict to break out in 1939 after the conclusion of the First World War with the Peace of Versailles in 1919.

The Fathers of Europe instead teach us that the concept of a “European nation” was born from an idea that, even before economic and financial issues, was concerned with culture and politics: for all involved to renounce a part of their sovereignty so that everyone could be free and stronger. But the Fathers of Europe also teach us that to develop truly innovative ideas three virtues are necessary: courage, patience and generosity. Courage is needed to overcome the opposition, envy and resentment that great ideas inevitably unleash, sometimes even on one’s own doorstep. Patience is fundamental because nothing good is built without time. Finally, generosity is required because the most beautiful and true things for a man and a woman are those that do not die with us but are passed down.

Renounce a part of one’s sovereignty in order to be stronger and freer

«Schools beyond Regions and Borders» is an international project relating to citizenship education that involves 7 Nations and which aims to develop five themes of civic education “from the people” and upload them onto a special digital platform over the course of three years. Students and colleagues from the Da Vinci scientific high school, the Ladin de Fascia school and the German language Marie Curie Institute in Merano are ready to meet and discuss at different times and on various issues with

Rinunciare a una parte della propria sovranità per essere più forti e più liberi

guests arriving from Sarajevo and Dublin. We will talk together, we will sing together, we will walk together along both the streets of Rovereto and Trento as well as the paths of our beautiful Dolomite mountains.

In the spirit of a great Father of Europe who was born a few kilometers from here and who wrote in September 1953 that: *Europe exists, but is in chains; we need to break these links; our political structures betray their own arteriosclerosis terribly [...]. To unite Europe, there is perhaps more to destroy than to build, throwing away a world of prejudice, timidity and bitterness [...]. Let us talk, write, insist, let us not take a moment to breathe; so that Europe remains the topic of the day [...]. What should our watchword be? In my opinion, union with a variety of natural and historical forces. We will be able to move in this direction if we are able to march towards a new European humanism while respecting the traditions, the momentum towards progress and the practice of freedom.*

Giuseppe Zorzi, Coordinator of the European project Schools beyond Regions and Borders



INAUGURATION OF THE MARIA DOLENS EXHIBITION IN SAN MARINO

A time-honoured alliance

«There are no small parts, only small actors». Konstantin Sergeevich Stanislavskij, author of the most cited and least applied method in the theater, had clear ideas. Of course, every representation has its protagonists, but without the “secondary characters” the stories do not go on. And in that great big representation that is the world, where everyone tries to play a leading role, not always receiving a standing ovation, there is a small country that is in actual fact not a small country, for it has made peace its point of reference, always.

Perhaps also for this reason, San Marino adhered to the Peace Memorandum of the Bell of the Fallen before joining the Council of Europe and the United Nations. We were reminded of this by the Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of San Marino, Sergio Mercuri, during the inauguration of the exhibition which opened on May 7 at the Embassy and which carries the message of Maria Dolens even to those latitudes. «The Rovereto Peace Bell is particularly close in the history of strengthening San Marino’s international identity», said Mercuri, recalling that the signature dates back to May 5, 1960, at a time when San Marino was completely isolated from an international point of view and also relations with Italy were difficult as the Friendship Treaty between San Marino and Italy was only signed in 1971.



This was echoed by the ambassador Maria Giovanna Fadiga, a classical and humanistic philologist, very active in the promotion of Italian culture abroad, who referred to «a folder dedicated to the ‘Campana dei Caduti’ pledge, whose first document was signed by the then Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Federico Bigi». From that request, she added, «a documented alliance was born in all its passages, which demonstrates how San Marino has an international opening through initiatives of high ethical value».

The exhibition, inaugurated on the occasion of the 93rd Gathering of the Alpine troops in Rimini and San Marino, is open until June 19th.

SEMINAR ON INEQUALITY

Global inequality is extensive and represents one of the major obstacles to sustainable development and the fight against poverty. In recent years it has increased in many countries, effectively limiting the possibilities of certain sectors of society to participate in social, cultural, political and economic life and to make a useful contribution.

Goal 10 of the United Nations 2030 agenda aims to reduce it not only between different countries, but also within each individual nation. This is the basis of the discussion scheduled for 25 June at the Rovereto Peace Bell Foundation in the seminar coordinated by Professor Giuseppe Nesi, Italian jurist and lecturer, former Dean of the Faculty of Law, Trento University and legal advisor to the president of the United Nations General Assembly

in the 65th session, from 2010 to 2011. Recently elected member of the UN International Law Commission (mandate 2023-2027).



IT HAPPENED TODAY

The Dalai Lama at the Bell

June 29, 2001: The Dalai Lama visits the Rovereto Peace Bell. He is pictured with Foundation President Pietro Monti, Councilor Donata Loss representing Rovereto Town Council (below) and Archbishop of Trento Luigi Bressan (above).



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They would have ranged from the progressive crumbling of community demands, replaced by the new centers of power of "sovereignism", to the relegation of civil and social rights in the name of a fearful and somewhat unclear return to « the ethics of value », to the exit of France from the integrated command of NATO, to the policy of "zero growth" applied to immigration, to a line of pronounced appeasement towards the infamous neo-imperialist designs of the Russian tyrant. We can most certainly be glad of a narrow escape ...

That said, decidedly less positive elements also emerged from the vote of 24 April. The improvement in Marine Le Pen's result first of all, from 33 percent of votes in 2017 to 41 percent today, which equates to an increase of 2 million supporters in a total pool of 13 million votes. Second, with the emergence in France of an increasingly clear electoral dichotomy, where its poorest, least educated residents in disadvantaged areas are hugely supportive of Marine Le Pen, whereas their wealthy compatriots, culturally and professionally educated and inhabitants of "privileged neighborhoods" are united in their firm support for Emmanuel Macron. Le Pen clearly recognizes the French overseas (residing in the so-called *Dom Tom*) where she was voted with a majority.

While waiting for the "third half" (for a more complete evaluation of the electoral process, in France it is in fact mandatory to wait for the results of the legislative elections, traditionally set a couple

The fact that a staunch supporter of European integration remained at the helm of France is a reason for satisfaction and relief



of months apart from the presidential elections), it already seems clear that in view of overcoming this profound gap (which already manifested itself - before the pandemic - through the phenomenon of the *gilets jaunes*) Macron must actively engage in a broad program of economic and social reforms. Among the most urgent are those relating to work, education and the pension system. As he himself highlighted as soon as the outcome of the polls was known, these measures must be characterized by their «inclusiveness» and by the commitment «not to leave anyone by the side of the road». On the other hand, the substantial number of votes amassed in the first round by the candidate of the so-called "France Unbowed", Jean Luc Mélenchon, which mostly merged in the ballot with those of the outgoing President, constitute a token to be cashed in.

It should also be emphasized that the problem of the "two realities" cohabiting in a single nation not only represents a French characteristic but is spread slightly throughout the Continent. It is precisely the areas neglected by the state (problematic urban peripheries, impoverished rural areas, etc.) that more than others lend themselves to the incubation of xenophobia, intolerance, racism and, in the most serious cases, even of terrorism. Hence the urgent need to "reintegrate" them through targeted support plans.

In the international field, despite the fact that the French presidency within the European Union is now drawing to a close (end of June), it appears essential that Macron continues to represent, together with the German Chancellor and

The EU needs an effective common defence system that cannot be achieved without the creation of a European army

the Italian Premier, the leading trio called to guide the rest of Europe towards the key decisions that await it. In summary, three appear to be the most "burning" issues and as such cannot be postponed: an organic project to try to resolve the awful Russian / Ukrainian conflict, a serious policy of welcoming / integrating emigrant flows (now coming not only from the South, as in the recent past, but, more extensively, also from the East) and, finally, the implementation of an effective common defence system, attainable only with the creation of a European army. In addition, the transition from unanimity to eligible majority voting is by far the most awaited reform of the Treaties.

As a final note, a desirable change in Macron's personal attitude may also contribute to the realization of this undoubtedly demanding agenda of objectives since he is very often identified, both at home and abroad, as the arrogant "first of the class" technocrat. A less self-referential and more open approach to dialectical confrontation with others would in fact have a positive impact on his interlocutors, both French and foreign, to the full benefit of the collective, domestic and international good.

Reggente Marco Marsilli, Foundation President