

# The voice of Maria Dolens

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PEACE BELL FOUNDATION OF ROVERETO



## IN THIS EDITION

- 02** Happening at the UN. World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 04** Happening at the Council of Europe. 60th Anniversary of the European Social Charter
- 05** Nobel Peace Prize awarded to two journalists
- 06** Estonia joins the Peace Memorandum
- 07** It happened on this day. Visit from the Ambassador of Iran

## Leave a mark

### THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**O**n 17 November, with an opening speech by Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, Italy will assume its six-month Presidency of the Council of Europe (CoE), the multilateral organization based in Strasbourg whose raison d'être consists in the protection and affirmation (within the territorial area of its own competence) of human rights, the rule of law and the principles of democracy. It is an activity of great relevance and almost inexhaustible in terms of the commitment required, as the Conventions signed (of which there are approximately 200) since its foundation in 1949 clearly testify.

It is an event that is both rare and important. Rare because with 47 member states

(representing 840 million inhabitants) it means that on the basis of the principle of alphabetical rotation, a State has this area of responsibility only every 23/24 years. Before now, Italy had occupied the Presidency at the dawn of the new millennium, in 2000, while I gladly entrust the readers with the task of verifying when this will happen again.

Important because in the 6 months of presidential mandate it is possible to direct the attention of other countries towards certain issues, those that appear in the program presented by the corresponding capital, thus influencing the agenda of the Committee of Ministers, the highest aspiration within the CoE.

*To be continued on page 3...*

Editor  
Marcello Filotei  
[marcello.filotei@fondazionecampanadecaduti.org](mailto:marcello.filotei@fondazionecampanadecaduti.org)

#### PEACE BELL FOUNDATION OF ROVERETO

Colle di Miravalle - 38068 Rovereto  
T. +39 0464.434412  
F. +39 0464.434084  
[info@fondazioneoperacampana.it](mailto:info@fondazioneoperacampana.it)  
[www.fondazioneoperacampana.it](http://www.fondazioneoperacampana.it)

Enrolled at the ROC, an Italian association for journalists specializing in Communications n. 35952

#### DESIGN

OGP srl - Agenzia di pubblicità  
[www.ogp.it](http://www.ogp.it)

## HAPPENING AT THE UN

# «Remember your humanity»

## WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

To win a Nobel Prize it is not enough to be intelligent, you also need to have a vision, to think on a universal scale and long-term. Giorgio Parisi, who last month received the phone call that all scholars dream of from the Stockholm Academy of Sciences, has dedicated his life to putting order in the chaos and he did it in physics, where he made «innovative contributions to our understanding of complex systems». Joining him are two other winners, the Japanese meteorologist and climatologist, Syukuro Manabe, 90, and the German oceanographer and climate modeler, Klaus Hasselmann, 89, who received the Nobel Prize «for physical modeling of the earth's climate, the quantification of variability and the reliable forecast of global warming». All three work on phenomena that are certainly chaotic, but only seem random. It is about finding order and when you manage to find it then oftentimes it works in areas you hadn't thought of, such as mathematics, biology, neuroscience or machine learning.

Science has produced penicillin, but also the atomic bomb, photovoltaic panels and genetically modified crops. In essence, it is a tool at the service of humanity and we must then make use of it as seems fit, preferably using it for the common good. It has always been like this but what has changed in the last century is the trust we place in this means at our disposal. Parisi himself, between one toast and another, released a series of interviews as soon as he received news of the Nobel, in which he stressed that in this period «we doubt that our conditions will improve and, consciously or not, we blame science». In short, «it is true that our situation is critical on many fronts, but to get out of it we need more science, not less science. And this is particularly true of climate change». Perhaps then the World Science Day for Peace and Development, established by the United Nations, takes on a whole new meaning, of significant relevance in the present climate, which is as it should be but unfortunately is not always so. The celebrations are set for November 10 and the aim is to emphasize how know-



Peter Paul Rubens, "Minerva Protecting Peace from Mars" (1629-1630, National Gallery of London)

ledge and technological development can be fundamental for the economy and the environment and an improvement in these areas drastically decreases the likelihood of conflicts occurring. After all, scientists, in one way or another, have always placed the ethical dilemma at the center of their actions. Sometimes by repressing it and moving "to the dark side", at other times by giving up huge gains so as to provide everyone with access to various newly discovered treatments. The examples that could be given are numerous, but on the subject of Nobel prizes we may bear in mind Mr. Alfred Nobel himself, who after

“

Knowledge and technological development are essential for the economy and the protection of the environment. An improvement in these areas decreases conflicts

”



«Allegory of Science» (1894-1895, Complesso Cavalli, Padua), attributed to Giacomo Manzoni

“

According to the recent Nobel Prize winner in Physics Giorgio Parisi at this moment «we doubt that our conditions will improve and, consciously or not, we blame science»

”

having invented the most powerful explosive ever known until his time, in order «to make amends and relieve his conscience as a man instituted the prizes for the promotion and realization of Peace».

This was written by someone else who knew something about science, Albert Einstein, emphasizing, with regard to the atomic bomb, that “the physicists who helped forge the most formidable and dangerous weapon of all time are tormented by a shared sense of responsibility, not to say guilt». «We must continue to admonish governments - he continued - and to make them aware of the unspeakable disaster they will most certainly cause if they cannot manage to change their attitude in time».

Bertrand Russell, who could not win the Nobel Prize because he was a mathematician, emphasized in an interview with the BBC in 1959 how the relationships of solidarity, compassion and empathy must be amplified in order to allow for the continuation of life on an increasingly crowded planet. «Love is wise, hate is insane. In this world that is becoming more and more interconnected, we have to learn to tolerate others, to accept the fact that someone may say things we don't like. Only in this way can we live together. If we wish to live together rather than die together, we must learn some form of charity and tolerance, which are absolutely vital for the continuation of human life on Earth». He did not know social networks, but it seems he had anticipated their implication.

Together Einstein and Russell promoted the Manifesto for Peace in 1955 calling for nuclear disarmament. They did not get it because stronger than their ideas were and still are the economic interests that gravitate around the continuous feeding of wars. «No statesman who has ever held a position of responsibility has dared to take the only promising route for stable peace, that of supranational security, since this would certainly have ended his political career. In fact, the political passions, which are kindled everywhere, require victims», Einstein commented. This is why, alongside the word science, the UN has put «for Peace and Development» as its World Day. Things must go hand in hand, and there is only one way to do so. Józef Rotblat, another one of the editors of the Manifesto, taught us this as the only scientist involved in the Manhattan project to abandon his job due to moral conflicts. He also received a Nobel Prize in 1955, that of Peace. He took to the stage, accepted his medal and personal diploma, collected a large sum of money and uttered a phrase that applies to everyone in every age, scientists or otherwise: «Remember your humanity, and forget the rest».

...To be continued on page 1...

We may assume then, in this context, that the new Presidency does not wish to neglect any of the traditional lines of work and therefore political, cultural and social themes (possible update of the Turin Charter) will be pursued simultaneously, in addition to the identification of mechanisms for strengthening the enforcement of Court sentences.

That said, it is not the aim of this article to go into detail regarding the priorities of the Italian government, particularly since they are not yet fully known at the time of writing. Subsequent issues of the «Voice» will in fact present the evaluations of the experts, certainly in possession of more concrete information. What is certain right now is the strong expectations in the Strasbourg sphere of a new Presidency deemed capable of “leaving its mark”, coherently and in continuity with the very authoritative and qualified role played by our country in the Pan-European forum, of which it is a founding member alongside nine other countries. The fact, then, that the “handing over of the baton” takes place with a country like Hungary which is heavily conditioned, in relation to its work in Strasbourg, by the well-known anti-democratic regulations imposed internally by those authorities, only increases the belief that the Italian term will help to restore strength and vigour to the Strasbourg organization, whose recent activity has inevitably been affected in terms of reduced operations as a result of the long lockdown period.

More generally (and far from being a criticism for it is only an observation) the Council of Europe must often live with the image that it is less “accomplished” than it actually deserves credit for. The European Union is not exactly an innocent by-stander in light of this perception with its much greater visibility, not to mention significantly greater financial means, that it has at its disposal. It might be a detail of less importance, but the sharing of the logo (the 12 gold stars on a blue background) and the anthem (Beethoven's Ode to Joy) seem to contribute to the unjustified “reliance” of Strasbourg to Brussels.

In reality, after an even superficial observation of the various opinions that characterize the Pan-European area today, also made up of exacerbated nationalisms and related discrimination, there can be no doubt that it needs, today as in the past, the irreplaceable presence and fundamental activity of the Strasbourg organization over which Italy is preparing to preside, with the strong expectations mentioned above, for the eighth time in its history.

Reggente Marco Marsilli, Foundation President.



## HAPPENING AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

# The Constitution of the continent

## 60 YEARS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

**T**he European Social Charter turns 60. It opened for signature in Turin on October 18, 1961 and is an international treaty of the Council of Europe that guarantees a wide range of human rights such as work, housing, health, education, assistance and social protection. It is complementary to the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects civil and political rights. Often considered the Constitution of Europe in the social field, the Charter emphasizes the protection of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, minors, people with disabilities and migrants, distinguishing itself as the guardian of fundamental social and economic rights. In order to take the challenges of our modern societies into account, the content of the Charter has been supplemented by a revised version since 1996 which turns 25 in 2021. Today, the Charter is the most ac-

cepted set of norms related to human rights within the Council of Europe. All 47 Member States have signed the 1961 or the revised Charter.

Respect for the Charter by the States that make up the contract is guaranteed by the European Committee of Social Rights - a body made up of 15 independent and impartial members - which operates within the framework of two distinct procedures: that of national relations and that of collective complaints. As part of the national reporting procedure, "conclusions" are adopted, while for the collective complaints procedure these are "decisions". A Protocol which opened for signature in 1995 and came into force in 1998 allows national and international trade union organizations, employers' organizations and international non-governmental organizations to submit their complaints to the Committee regarding violations of the Charter. «Social rights represent a fundamental

element of the global system of collective guarantees for the protection of human rights in Europe. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has accentuated the growing inequalities within our societies. The Social Charter of the Council of Europe helps member states to combat this trend by supporting the development of effective social rights protection devices even in times of crisis», declared the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, on the occasion of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the Charter, held on 18 October in Strasbourg.

Giuseppe Zaffuto, spokesman for the Council of Europe for Italy.



**O**n 29 September, Foundation President Reggente Marco Marsilli, met in Strasbourg on the side lines of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) with the President of the Italian Delegation, the Honourable Marta Grande. President Grande showed sincere interest in the work carried out by the Foundation for the strengthening of Peace and the defense of human rights and, invited by its President to learn more about the various initiatives promoted, expressed her intention to become better acquainted with Colle di Miravalle as soon as the numerous institutional commitments on her calendar allow it.



# Nobel Peace Prize awarded to two journalist

**T**he fact that the Nobel Peace Prize went to two journalists is bad news. It would have been much better if there had been no need for it. Instead, there are still places where writing what you think is an act of courage. At least now no one can say they don't know what's going on.

The Filipino-American Maria Ressa and the Russian Dmitry Muratov, who received the Prize, are not the only ones fighting in their countries to defend freedom of expression, a precondition for democracy, but from now on they represent all those who do so. Perhaps they are afraid, they are certainly at risk, and the threats they have received are significant and persistent. Now they are so much in the spotlight that it will be harder to hit them. In the world, however, there are many colleagues in their shoes, their names are not well known, and the better they do their job the less they show themselves, because the role of information is to put facts at the center of attention not the person telling them.

This is also why Muratov chose to dedicate the award to his newspaper, «Novaya Gazeta», and to the six reporters killed for having his same merits. He would have preferred that Alexey Navalny, the Kremlin opponent currently in prison, had been chosen instead of him. But saying this in an interview released as soon as he learned of the Oslo decision put things in perspective and sent a clear signal.

The recognition of Maria Ressa is also emblematic from this point of view. The Filipino-American journalist is co-founder of the news site



Rappler, which has reached 4.5 million followers on Facebook since 2012. In this online newspaper you can read the only critical inquiries against President Rodrigo Duterte produced in the Philippines. These insights into the human rights violations and corruption have cost the reporter numerous trials and a conviction for libel, for which she risks up to six years in prison. The reason given for the award is that, Ressa used freedom of expression to «unmask the abuse of power, the use of violence and the growing authoritarianism in her native country».

The Nobel Prize for the two journalists was unanimously applauded by both the European Union and the United Nations. For "Reporters Without Borders", which for years has condemned the repression of press freedom in various geographical are-

“

The Filipina Maria Ressa and the Russian Dimitry Muratov symbol of those fighting to defend freedom of expression

”

as, the Award is equivalent to «a call to mobilize, to defend journalism». Fortunately, there are courageous journalists, too bad we need them.



## ESTONIA ADHERES

# A country with a difficult story



**T**he Republic of Estonia entered the League of Nations in 1921. It could be a nice round date to celebrate, but in the last hundred years things have all too often turned out differently than hoped for: what looked like the end of an ordeal was just the beginning of a very difficult path. Retracing the recent history of his country, the Estonian Ambassador to Italy, Paul Teesalu, who went up to the Miravalle hill on 5 October to join the Peace Memorandum of the Bell of the Fallen, felt it his duty to recall two world wars, a war of independence and prolonged foreign occupation. All in just over a century.

«During the First World War, approximately 100,000 Estonian soldiers fought in the Imperial Russian Army, but there were also Baltic citizens who had instead been enlisted by the Germans», Teesalu recalled in front of Reggente Marco Marsilli, Deputy Mayor of Rovereto Giulia Robol, Councilor Arianna Miorandi and Claudio Naldi, who went up to the Colle on behalf of the Government Commission. Once again, a nation split in two. Tragedies that occur at different latitudes but in the same way. Then the opportunity. In February 1918, troops from Berlin conquered the entire country, but it took them a while to reach the capital. The

Russians left Tallinn before the Germans arrived and the founding fathers of the Estonian Republic used the “vacant seat” to declare independence. «Estonia is therefore one of the countries born from the ashes of the First World War»,

“

During the First World War, approximately 100,000 Estonian soldiers fought in the Imperial Russian Army, but there were also a number of Baltic citizens enlisted by the Germans

”

“

The flag hoisted on the Hill is a clear signal sent by those who do not forget how much freedom cost and want to avoid it being put at risk by another conflict

”



*The Estonian Ambassador Paul Teesalu and Reggente Marco Marsilli before the ceremony*

says Teesalu. But there would still be suffering. In February 1920 the Tartu Peace Treaty was signed with the Soviets, in 1921 there was the aforementioned adhesion to the organization which would later become the UN but then in 1940 there was the Soviet invasion and annexation which extinguished the light of democracy for too long and was only rekindled thirty years ago. A unique story yet at the same time like many others with victims to be honored, rights to be defended. And to hoist the Estonian flag, the first of a Baltic Republic, next to Maria Dolens is a clear signal sent by those who know the cost of freedom and wish to avoid it being endangered by another conflict.

Don Rossaro, commented Marsilli, had a dream: «No more wars». He cemented this ideal ninety-six years ago in a Bell cast with the bronze of cannons that had fired on enemy fields and now resound in a single toll of Peace. The Foundation President added that he had of course been rather optimistic: it took another immense massacre before that cry was heard, but today «we can all live in a European society that is free from wars. And we owe this to the people who, in the 1950s, helped to create the great continental

family of which Estonia has been an important and very active member since 2003». «That of the Second World War - he continued addressing the Estonian ambassador - was a terrible period for your country with the renunciation of national sovereignty and years of occupation until regaining independence in 1991 and your proud presence on the international scene. And this means that today's Estonia is in many ways a model country in international society which has strong democratic traditions. It is experiencing strong economic growth, is at the forefront of technological innovation and also secures many foreign investments, synonymous with the movement of ideas that generates further growth».

On 5 October we learnt a little more about a country with a complicated history, which was formed by oppression, courage, blood and rebirth. And today, perhaps also for this reason, ready to guarantee assiduous participation in Peacekeeping operations, from the Middle East to Africa. Those who have suffered from war work so that there are no more conflicts, and come to raise their flag in the House of Peace.

On 15 October, «Memorial Day for the Victims and the Fallen of the Great War in Trentino» was held at the Bell. The ceremony was attended by National Vice-President of the Austrian Black Cross Walter Murauer (left), President of the Autonomous Province of Trento Maurizio Fugatti (center) and Reggente Marco Marsilli, President of the Rovereto Peace Bell Foundation (left).





IT HAPPENED TODAY

# Iran at the Bell

23 November, 1974: Visit to the Bell of the Fallen by the Ambassador of Iran, Alinaghi Said Ansary

