



Ressort: Politik

The relaunching of Europe

Rome, 17.03.2017 [ENA]

On the 16th of March the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy inaugurated the Exhibition 'Ever Closer Union' concerning the historical steps made to reach the European Union. It's a Travelling exhibition on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome (1957-2017). The Exhibition shows original historical documents (European Treaties, letters, newspapers a.s.o).

Italy's choice for Europe was indisputably based on the Marshall Plan. In the aftermath of WWII the Italian government accepted the plan with enthusiasm. The position of the authorities and diplomats was very significant and Foreign Minister Sforza wanted Italy to play a role equal to the other States.

Italy's position in the 40s was characterized by a series of supranational projects. And above all, Italy's quest for equality was crucial. The European project was considered an opportunity by the Italian politicians. Italy would play an important role in the context of the Shuman Plan. Italian migration was a very important point for Italy: the goal of an ever closer political and social integration is an ancient point for Italy.

And another essential point was the external constraint to modernize the Country. On the other side, in 1955 in Messina, Italy it seemed impossible to reach an agreement between France and Germany for an integration programme. But fundamental for the success of the integration was the unified pressure of the USA and of the Soviet Union and a compromise could be reached on the base of the agreement. Today the idea of a differentiated integration (DI) has gained ground within the pro-EU camp, so that some member states can progress in selected policy areas, possibly involving the remaining countries at a later stage.

Since the member states and peoples of the EU are 'united in diversity', it seems natural for the European construction to use models of differentiated integration, so as to be able to act in an effective way while taking this diversity into account. However, the promoters of differentiated integration should focus not only on effectiveness, but also on legitimacy issues, which are key for the EU's functioning and success, at a time when it is challenged by global defies but also splintered along several divides between states and peoples.

There are philosophical, political and institutional conditions which must be met. That's crucial to permit

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an acceptable deepening of discrepancy within the EU highlighting the importance of a differentiation based on rigorous political foundations. All that to serve the interests of the European peoples, for example as regards collective security issues and the Economic and Monetary Union.

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