

From Kohl's victory, a lesson for Europe

by Flaminio Piccoli

The outcome of the recent German elections teaches that a policy of wisdom and moderation wins when it is led by a leader such as Helmut Kohl. The CDU [Christian Democratic Union] victory comes at a particularly difficult moment for Europe and the Middle East, and gives Germany a special role of leadership because of the stability of its government, the strength of its economy, and its constant international commitment.

One has to see the fact that the program of the winners, founded on political and economic freedom, as expressed by the Christian social experience, was the one which made the great progress of Germany possible after the destruction of the war. Economically, Germany is an example because, although it is based on the free market, it never accepted that free market economics become a dogma, and was able to use the federal state for well-timed interventions when it was necessary.

We look at the German example also concerning the monstrous financial speculation which is hitting the European stock markets, and which risks, if it is allowed to continue, collapsing our economy, transforming our society from the

famous two-thirds rich against one-third poor, into one-third rich and two-thirds of people at the margin of poverty. I ask myself: How can it be possible that a chicken thief ends up in jail while well-known currency and stock exchange speculators continue to steal, with the support of the mass media which, consciously or unconsciously, help to destabilize the markets, every day imposing heavy financial losses on the state?

The same goes for the plan to privatize Italian state industries which, in some cases, was necessary, but which has had negative effects because of the superficiality and haste with which it is being realized. In a few years, when the real figures are made public, it will become clear that the free market ideology, left to itself, produced . . . a lot of damage, and in some cases true monsters. In a study which was published some years ago on 18 British companies which had been privatized, it was shown that their economic performance since then has become much worse.

The truth is that we are going toward a post-industrial society, in which the protagonists are no longer industrialists such as Falck, Agnelli, and Pirelli, but fashion and media figures such as Armani, Valentino, Scalfari, and Montanelli. The proof of this is that one of these figures, [Italian Prime Minister Silvio] Berlusconi, who just moved into politics, has had such an unforeseen success.

We should not forget that unemployment today is not a conjunctural, but a structural problem. It is our problem number one. We should all work together to solve it, because the desperation of those who have no job could produce unpredictable consequences, also for our democracy.

Senator Flaminio Piccoli was general secretary of the Italian Christian Democracy in the 1970s, then president of the Christian Democratic International. He was a member of the Italian Senate until the last Italian elections. He is considered one of the Italian senior politicians closest to the Vatican and to the social doctrine of the church, as expressed in the papal encyclicals *Mater et Magistra*, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, and the more recent *Centesimus Annus* by Pope John Paul II. Senator Piccoli was one of the first signers of the call to free Lyndon LaRouche published in the *Washington Post* in January 1993, and is among the signers of the recent call to exonerate him.

During a press conference he held at the Italian Parliament on April 1993, to present to the press the international parliamentary initiative to free LaRouche which had been endorsed in Italy by 72 members of Parliament, Piccoli expressed the conviction that "LaRouche's *Science of Christian Economy* reflects many ideas of the social doctrine of the church," and that this is the reason why George Bush had persecuted him.

In the above commentary on the Oct. 16 German elections, which was published in full in the Italian Catholic daily *Il Popolo* on Oct. 21, and which Piccoli made available to *EIR*, he explains why sticking to the "dogma" of free market economics is leading the world to an economic collapse. He calls on Italy to abandon free market economics, take urgent measures against derivatives speculation, and rather follow the "German example" of economic reconstruction through state interventions, as Germany did in the postwar period.

Piccoli also takes a stand on the ongoing destabilization of the traditional political parties in Italy, wondering how it is that corrupt politicians and low-level thieves go to jail, while speculators who deprive Italy of billions of dollars are not even investigated. He also refers indirectly to the plan to privatize and sell off the Italian state industries which had been discussed at a secret meeting on the royal yacht *Britannia* near Civitavecchia in June 1992, and was exposed by *EIR*. The story became known as the "*Britannia* plot against Italy."—*The Editors*.