

telism,”¹ and was dissolved in 1993, as part of the famous “Britannia coup” that destroyed the post-war political system.²

Infrastructure Corridors

Under a free-market regime, the Mezzogiorno was abandoned, and even the opportunity offered by the Trans-European Corridors was not promptly taken. The corridors are still valid, as guidelines for infrastructure corridors to integrate the Mezzogiorno with Northern Europe, and to become the bridge to Africa. “This project is consistent with LaRouche’s concept of the Eurasian Land-Bridge,” Novacco said. He then described the European corridors: “The vertical Corridor 1, from Berlin to Palermo, which means an historic opening to North African countries, and maybe towards the hypothesis of a tunnel under the Channel of Sicily,” i.e., between Sicily and Tunisia; “the horizontal Corridor 5, going from Spain to Lyon, to Budapest, and to Russia, which means a key opening toward eastern and north-eastern Europe; and the southern Corridor 8, planned to connect Italy to Albania and Bulgaria, which means an important opening, including in regard to oil, with the Balkans and towards Turkey and the Middle East, including the Islamic world.”

In this context, the Messina Bridge (to connect Sicily with mainland Italy) which the government is determined to build, makes sense, if integrated with high-speed transport networks that include Sicily itself. “It is not simply the fact that to cross a bridge is faster than taking a ferry: Everything changes.”

In this new phase, the momentum has been built for establishing new institutions for development in Italy. Tremonti’s collaborators have characterized the initiative as “a Marshall Plan” for Southern Italy and a “choice of very strong discontinuity with the past.”

Whereas the change of policy is clear (“First we talk about things, and then, we talk money”), the issue of credit has not yet been solved. The new agency, in fact,

shall manage EU funds which are allocated until 2013. After that, the EU establishes the new regime, by which an underdeveloped area is defined as such, if its income is less than 75% of the EU average. With the enlargement of the European Union to 27 members, the “average” standard has collapsed, so that the Mezzogiorno is no longer “underdeveloped.”

However, earthquakes are going to shake the world economy in the short term, and the EU might no longer even exist by next year. Sooner or later, a full return to a state-generated, sovereign credit system, is inevitable.

French-Italian Joint Venture for Nuclear Energy

Aug. 4—The French and Italian state companies, Areva and Enel respectively, yesterday signed a deal to establish a joint venture for nuclear energy development in Italy. The agency will be called Sviluppo Nucleare Italia (SNI), and will draft feasibility studies for four 1.6 GW plants to be built, starting as early as 2012. The technology used will be the French EPR reactor. The chairman and deputy chairman of SNI will be French; the CEO will be Italian. SNI will be based in Rome.

Italy is now one step closer to a nuclear energy revival, after the infamous 1987 decision to destroy its advanced nuclear energy system. The next step will be to choose the three sites for the four plants, but according to Enel engineers quoted in the media, “sites have already been chosen, but nobody will tell you [where], not even under torture.”

The government is seeking ways to prevent the program from being blocked by anti-nuclear hysteria induced by Prince Philip’s anti-nuclear mobs in the local communities, and has moved to put the whole nuclear program under control of the military. Thus, it is reported that a new commercial agency set up by the Defense Department will manage and lease the nuclear sites.

1. “Clientelism” refers to a form of social organization, especially common in developing regions, in which powerful, wealthy “patrons” promise to provide relatively powerless and poor “clients” with jobs, protection, infrastructure, and other benefits in exchange for votes and other forms of loyalty.

2. The “Britannia coup” refers to a secret meeting held on June 2, 1992 aboard Queen Elizabeth II’s yacht *Britannia*, during which leading Anglo-Dutch financial and banking executives met with their Italian counterparts to plot the privatization of Italian State-owned companies and their sale at rock-bottom prices.