

## World Faces Worst Crisis Since Weimar

*In the following statement, released March 15, Italian Sen. Lidia Menapace called for a New Bretton Woods agreement, and for a referendum on the European Union's Treaty of Lisbon, as the only alternatives to a collapse of civilization amidst the unfolding world economic collapse. Menapace, a former Resistance fighter, is an historic figure of Italy's movement for civil and women's rights, and is running for reelection to the Chamber of Deputies, as a candidate for the Rainbow Left coalition (Sinistra Arcobaleno), in the April 13-14 general election.*



Italy, like the rest of the world, is facing the most serious economic and social crisis since that of Weimar Germany. Now as then, there are two possible solutions: to defend and guarantee the social state and the victories earned by workers, by creating a new financial and credit system which revives the real economy, and penalizes financial speculation—that is, the New Bretton Woods promoted in the United States by the economist and Democratic leader LaRouche, modeled on that of Franklin Roosevelt. Or else, to give in to austerity measures and wars imposed by new forms of dictatorship.

The Lisbon Treaty which Italy is being asked to ratify, promises to resemble a dictatorship which will cancel not only our national sovereignty on economic policy, but also our Constitution. It further risks transforming the European Union into an aggressive military pact. This is why there are people's initiatives underway in various European countries, such as in Austria, for a referendum on this treaty. According to the German constitutional scholar Prof. Schachtschneider, Lisbon abrogates the neutrality clauses of many countries' constitutions. Thus, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Finland, and Malta would be forced to modify the nature of their systems, or remain outside of Europe. It would be better to keep open the possibility of attempting to construct a Europe which is neutral (which doesn't mean disarmed, but, for example, where it is impossible to possess atomic weapons or any nuclear armaments).

Among the "footnotes" which haven't been read by our Members of Parliament, the Treaty re-introduces the death penalty (which we have already struck from the Italian military code). Furthermore, it puts an end to national sovereignty over economic policy, which would signify the end of the social state. I join those who believe that a debate on these drastic measures is indispensable before the treaty is ratified.

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### Senator Oskar Peterlini

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## A Global Financial Conference Is Urgent

*Italian Sen. Oskar Peterlini, Democratic Party candidate for the general elections April 13-14, issued the following statement from Rome, on March 18:*



I am very worried by the situation on the financial markets and the worldwide economic crisis. Throughout the world, families and small investors are damaged by the crisis, because the various types of investments they make are destroyed by the games played by international speculation.

For years, together with Lyndon LaRouche and the Solidarity Movement, I have been calling on Italian institutions to work for a reorganization of international markets. The fact that every city or town has to establish rules for stores and vendors, while international financial markets are left untouched by political authorities, is unacceptable. There is too much speculation, and too many people who make money on the backs of others.

Therefore, it is urgent that governments act to propose and hold a global conference—especially among the most industrialized nations—modelled on Bretton Woods, to coordinate and regulate international markets, and thus return stability and trust to the economy.

We are currently in a transitional phase in Italy, but I hope that after the elections, all of the political groupings, and not only those who win, commit themselves to achieving this fundamental change necessary to deal with the grave international financial crisis.