

Altiero Spinelli, the European movements and the Manifesto of Ventotene

For a long time, many scholars have considered the idea of the unification of the European continent as an “utopia”, developed and limited by the thoughts of a few intellectuals (Dante, Emmanuel Kant, Saint Simon, Mazzini, Proudhon, Victor Hugo...).

This utopia has even been translated in 182 drafts of “European constitutions” written by individuals from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Centuries and jealously preserved in the European Archives. As you know, the only draft European “Constitution” being alive is the Spinelli draft Treaty adopted by the EP the 14th of February 1984.

Nothing is so wrong as this opinion because the original meaning of “utopia” is the Greek word - a “non-existing place” - or the country invented by Tommaso Moro in the book “libellus..de optimo reipublicae statu deque nova insula Utopia”.

If there is an “existing place “where the utopia of the unified society exists that is the European continent divided for many centuries in nation States.

This division of the Continent in nation States and the regression from the nations to nationalism have been the cause of the first and the second World Wars.

That’s the very innovative thought of the Manifesto of Ventotene together with the principle of the absolute sovereignty, the first one being a European problem and the second one a world problem.

That is the main reason why the Manifesto is for the federalists our “Little Red Book”: it has opened the revolutionary way of popular unrest!

Behind the Manifesto and starting from the Manifesto there is a group of revolutionary thinkers but between them there is the leadership of Altiero Spinelli, a man of thought and action.

Let me get out of the European history and enter in the current European events.

Between Altiero Spinelli and the various European Movements acting for a united, fair and democratic Union there is the fact that Altiero has been a man of thought and action, a man of one cause.

He was deeply committed about the fact that it was (and that is) necessary to melt the content of the project with the method and the agenda to achieve it.

The content of the project must be a Federal Community (I use these words instead of United States of Europe, but you are of course free to use the traditional words of U.S.E) and not only the vague and meaningless Political Union.

A Federal Community exists if it is based on a single Internal and External Security Policies, a Single Currency, an Autonomous Fiscal Capacity, the Respect of the Rule of Law and the Primacy of the Federal Law, a Federal government responding to a Federal Parliamentary Assembly.

I can be satisfied if this will be the content of the project!

The only method to achieve this project is founded both on the representative and participatory democracy.

We need a Constituent Assembly direct elected by the EU citizens (it exists, it is the EP elected the 26th of May and isn't necessary to elect another one) being the political space of the representative democracy.

All our constitutions establish that the sovereignty belongs to the people.

That is the reason because the democratic compromise reached by the Constituent Assembly must be submitted to a pan-European Referendum.

The European House is burning speaking about the agenda means that this legislature has become constituent.

You know that Emmanuel Macron and Ursula von der Leyen support the idea of a "European Conference about the future of the Union" starting with the German Presidency (July 2020) and ending with the French Presidency (May 2022).

To avoid the risk to transform the Conference in an empty "parlour" we have started now a campaign asking its members to give a constituent mandate to the EP and giving to the Assembly the time to end its work before the end of 2013.

If you will win this campaign the Tenth European elections in 2024 will be a pan-European referendum of the Federal Community.

Pier Virgilio Dastoli

President of European Movement- Italy

www.movimentoeuropeo.it