

We are in unknown lands. Full of risks; even extreme ones. As the one of going back, by decades and decades, on our road to Europe. But we have a new hope, stemming from the Greek referendum.

I supported the NO, discussing with my friends of the Editorial Board of “Il Mulino”.

For one main reason: Europe, as we built it from 2010 on, is not working anymore (as I analyzed here: <http://profgviesti.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2015viestieuropeinatrap.pdf>). Europe is not reducing its disequilibria; not investing on growth and cohesion; not avoiding very dangerous fractures among member states, regions, citizens. Current austerity policy in Greece would only produce misery and unemployment, without improving public finances.

But the key issue is: Europe is on the edge of abyss, independently of Greece. And we Europeans are lucky: the shock is coming from a country (and a Government) that do want to stay in Europe and in the Eurozone. Imagine, instead, a shock coming from the success of a nationalistic, anti-European movement, as the ones that are growing everywhere in Europe.

We are at a turning point, independently of Greece. Next days will be decisive for a number of crucial issues. The key one is clear: Europe does need a new agreement between Greece and her creditors; an agreement stating that Greece is and will be a Eurozone member; an agreement starting a new process of structural change and growth of the Greek economy. And this means: starting thinking, and building, a different Europe.

To get there, we have not only to avoid Greece’s default. But the danger of other defaults that appeared in the last week.

1. The default of free press. At least in Italy, in the last days we saw several TV and press reporters acting as agit-prop. It is not a matter of opinions. It is a matter of distorting information. There was a blossoming of cases. It is enough to quote, as an example, a Corriere della Sera reporter stating, without citing any source (maybe the oracle of Delphi?), that Greek GDP went down 1.5% in the last week, due to Tsipras;
2. The default of Italy in Europe. In the last week Italy – a founder of the EU – disappeared in the debate. Its Government only played the role of a junior supporter of the German Government, without even trying to play a role of mediator: that is in its tradition, and in its own interest. Matteo Renzi statement that the referendum was “a derby between the euro and the drachma” was thoughtless. He looked like a leader exchanging the possible role for his country in Europe with the benevolence of Angela Merkel.
3. The default of the Euro-Socialists. Euro-Socialists transformed themselves in second rank supporters of the European Popular Party. More than that. The words of Martin Schulz, saying that he prefers a “technocratic government stemming from the victory of the “YES”, put him of of any socialist (but even democrat and liberal) tradition.
4. The default of European institutions. Romano Prodi put it bluntly: the European Union wants to get rid of Tsipras: for that they played a direct role in the referendum campaign. EU top officials tried to influence the vote, a democratic process in a sovereign Member State. Jean-Claude Juncker, after years of experience in fiscal dumping (as Luxembourg PM), not understanding what the role of President of the European Commission is, tried an “electoral dumping”. Fortunately, not with success.

The risks of default to be avoided in Europe in the next days are several and crucial. Only some of them have directly to do with Greece

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http://www.rivistailmulino.it/news/newsitem/index/Item/News:NEWS_ITEM:2892