

## Jurassic Park (2)



A philosopher of complexity would probably argue that the real crisis that we are facing is a profound crisis of the mechanisms by which we generate and share knowledge. The question is what tools do we employ to execute the problem definition and then the problem solving? What words do we use to tell reality, to describe the problems? It is, for instance, rather evident that we do not have some external entity called "Europe" and that the question that we must face is a much broader one that does not leave states and local communities immune. Through the paradox of the rise and fall of the most successful of the international organizations we can, in fact, read the crisis of that very special public good that we still call "democracy". [...]

## Call for Ideas Green and Universities



The Green Movement as a possible political vision for the future. The Universities in the global market of ideas. These are the two topics of the next two newsletters. Ideas, articles, visions are welcome.

The Kyoto protocol stands as a cornerstone on environmental issues: it is the most important multinational agreement on such issues. And yet it displays many of the typical weaknesses of multilateral agreements in international politics: it fails to engender action, its follow up is sketchy at best and hard to actually enforce. The [Kyoto of the Cities Project](#) is an initiative that attempts to focus on smaller institutional actors, hoping that significant changes might be easier to realise when acting at a smaller level.

Somewhat linked to these issues stands the question of education and universities, and their future developments in Italy. The Italian university system came under scrutiny with Vision's [project on Universities](#). Vision's two next newsletters focus on these two issues: ideas are welcome.

## Vision in Facebook

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**If you want to join Vision projects or be author of Vision web magazine write to: [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org).**

## We Want You!



Vision is in the process of transforming its newsletter into a proper weekly e-magazine, open to all those willing to embark in a new experience. We are looking for contributors and authors, many of which are already contacting us from the academic and media worlds. Vision will be editing the newsletter, indicating on a weekly basis the issues to be developed. Vision's projects will serve as a basis for the issues of the e-magazine. Topics will range from education to Europe, from migration to intelligent cities and the environment. We are working on our advertising, and the intention is to split the revenues between contributors. We are waiting for you. For more information, please contact [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org).

**What do you think was the most significant aspect of the 2009 European Elections?**

a.  Low turnout

b.  The collapse of the European socialists

c.  The relative success of euro-skeptics and the extreme right

d.  The success of the EPP

## European Elections 2009: 5 Years Onwards



In the immediate aftermath of the 2004 European elections Vision published a [position paper](#) attempting to assess the state of the democratic process in Europe. We pointed out the success of parties outside of the European establishment, the lowering turnout and the tendency to see European elections from a decidedly national angle. We understood these elements as signs of a wider crisis of democracy, rather than as problems linked to European governance. Five years onwards, these tendencies are confirmed, with the lowest ever turnout (43%) and a breakthrough for the radical right. The crisis of democracy is still very much on the agenda, and this newsletter tries to explore the issues around it.

## Right on Target

by Tommaso Giordani



Just as predicted, one of the winners of this European elections has been what has been labeled, somewhat imprecisely, the "eurosceptic right".

The vision of Members of the European Parliament working incessantly to tear down the EU is fascinating, and reminds one of the old Marxist creed of using the force of the capitalist State in order to tear it down. The analogy is suggestive and, although a little far fetched, might contain an element of truth. [...]

## Time To Take Europe Seriously

by Sandro Gozi MP



The European paradox goes on. Another chapter has just been written in the European elections. A "European" vote on Europe without Europe. Domestic and local issues, or even gossip – seek Italy on the map – were at the centre of the various debates in the 27 seven EU countries. Nobody truly campaigned on our common future, on what should be done more, less and better at European level. France was focused on "Sarko", Britain on Gordon and the parliamentary expenses, Germany made a political "avant-première" in view of the federal vote in September, Italians were focused on Berlusconi and his girls.s and divert their vote towards anti-system parties. [...]

## Crisis? Only evolution and change

by Serena Manzoli



European Parliamentary Elections 2009, abstention levels peak. At this point generally, talking about "democracy crisis" comes easy. Moreover, one points out how this fall correlates, paradoxically, with the increase of Parliament's powers; it seems like people decide to waive their rights just when there is the chance, for them, to count. The situation might be a bit different. [...]

## European Elections: Impressions from Washington

by Teodor Stan



The headlines about the European Parliamentary Elections made it across the pond and survived in the intense news cycle holding their own in the major press. The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, all reported on the electoral outcomes, all spoke of Europe's leaning towards the right and of worrisome extremist, fringe parties moving into the core of European political life and decision making process. [...]

## The new European Parliament between extremism, nationalism and anti-EU vote

by Maria Cristina di Fronso



The centre-right European People's Party scored significant victories over its arch-rival, the Party of European Socialists, in the elections to the European Parliament. The EPP-ED group is on track to retain and even strengthen its position as the largest political group in the European Parliament. The EPP-ED's victory was built on large increases in support in France, Spain and Poland. In addition, the centre-right did well in the Czech Republic and Hungary. As well as the disappointing result in Germany, the Socialist group has suffered large losses in France and the Netherlands. The bad result was very strongly affected by domestic political issues, citing the poor results in Hungary, the UK and France. [...]

## Asking the Wrong Questions? The Press, "Resurgent Nationalism", and the European Elections

by Greg Caramenico



Giambattista Vico once observed that the order of ideas necessarily follows the order of institutions. In the context of the media coverage of the European elections, we might modify this. We could instead point out that the order of ideas has followed a ranking of whatever outrageous or newsworthy parties have won in the polls, and consideration of ideas has taken a back seat to headlines about shock or confusion. Media outlets across the Anglophone, world, from newspapers to bloggers, have approached the election results with various degrees of surprise and curiosity. [...]

## EU-US: A Little Comparison

by Yrenilsa Lopez



According to official estimates, the average EU-wide voter turnout in the European Parliament elections of 2009 was 43 percent. This is the lowest figure since the elections began in 1979, and the numbers per country are vastly lower than those for the turnout in national elections. It seems that European Union citizens are more focused on national issues and show indifference towards Europe-wide campaigns. The questions that come to mind are whether this is a failure of EU leadership, or is there just simple apathy among its citizens? [...]

## Lessons From India: The EU and Continental Democracy

by Asif Parvez



The European Union was started with the Treaty of Rome as European Economic Community in 1957, designed to boost commerce by removing tariffs' and other barriers to promote market, goods, services and labor, is one of the most enduring treaties in the continent of Europe since the 1713-14 Treaty of Utrecht. [...]

## European Elections and Structural Choices for a Viable EU

by Edoardo Riccio



The outcome of the elections for the European Parliament has been a mix of lower turnout, general defeat of moderate parties and significant gains of radicals and euro-sceptics. There are for sure some contingent reasons for this. First, during crisis social disease increases, people lose confidence in moderate forces and divert their vote towards anti-system parties. [...]