

## Reflections from Mars Fatal attraction



So what is Italy today? Why are Americans girls and British pensioners so keen on this country? Is it for some fatal attraction that I and the people like me do not surrender and leave the place for good? How can a country with the highest accumulated public debt and the lowest mathematic skills amongst its kids still find a way to escape its decline? Is this story of the "decline" true if today (Easter) Rome is empty and everybody seems to have headed towards her or his villa? Past success and present decline have probably a lot to do with something that is all around us: this overwhelming beauty and history that can be a unique asset, or the most powerful of the liabilities. [...]

## Visiondemocracy



Vision is building a new platform entirely dedicated to constructing policy proposals and projects with high social value as well as to express opinions and suggest improvements on them. The platform will be in English and Italian and will be the follow up a Vision experiment which produced the **manifesto for Italy** few months ago. Anyone interested in this project can get further information by writing to [valentina.cucci@vision-forum.org](mailto:valentina.cucci@vision-forum.org).

## Vision News

### The Kyoto of the Cities



As a follow up on the Vision project on "Climate Change and Democracy" as well as the participation in the Bali conference, Vision is about to launch "The Kyoto of the Cities" a project with the objective to explore the possibility of engaging major cities in an international agreement on environment - related goals and explore strategies for CO2 emissions in housing, waste management and urban transportation. The project's results will be delivered at a conference taking place on the 5th - 7th of October in Venice. Anyone interested in the project can have further information by writing to [ketevan.bochorishvili@vision-forum.org](mailto:ketevan.bochorishvili@vision-forum.org).

**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).**

## Eppur si muove? Vision with The Economist and Demos in London



There is a tradition in Italy that on the first of April people play jokes to each other. But this time it is not a joke. It seems that Italian Politics is undergoing a change towards becoming more normal. With two political parties contending power for five full years. But how credible is the change? Is this normalization really good news? Vision is organizing together with the London based think tank Demos and The Economist a [debate](#) on next Italian general election. *Eppur si muove?* is the title of the seminar taking place in London, at Demos on the first of April and leaders of the political parties together with international media, political scientists and young Italian living in London will participate. If you are interested to attend the seminar in London or participate through webcam please write to [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org).

### A normal country



There must be psychology even more than economy or politics into the Italian decline. The problem of Italy must be this condition of being the last of the great (or formerly great) countries: too big is the legacy of the memory of some historic grandeur to be humble enough – like Spain for instance - to grasp opportunities as they materialize; and yet too small is the country's specific weight to influence (like France or UK or even Germany can do) global dynamics and take advantage of it. Against this background, Vision and Demos [paper](#) argues that politics role is not to solve problems directly, but to motivate people at all levels to take responsibility for the change.

### Can Apathy be Justified?

by Giovanni Dazzo



S.P.Q.R. As a visitor to Rome you notice this old motto everywhere. As a resident, you begin to forget that it is placed on every possible article in the city. Today though – amongst the residents of Rome and Italy as a whole – it seems that not only its placement has been forgotten, but its general definition. *Senatus Populusque Romanus*. Common English translation: the Senate AND People of Rome. The stress on the conjunction 'and' should be noted mainly because it seems to have disappeared in modern day Italy. [...]

### Can Italy Work as a Two-Party System?

by Yrenilisa Lopez



From an outsider's point of view, the Italian electoral process can be seen as a puzzling arrangement of many different actors – all with vested interests in holding control within a largely decentralized progression. Since the dissolution of Parliament by Giorgio Napolitano, the many parties in Italy's political sphere have jostled to send a representative into the national ticket. However, the general elections have focused on the competition between two principal figures within the Italian political scene: Silvio Berlusconi and Walter Veltroni. [...]

### Without question marks

by Raffaele Fantetti



Raffaele Fantetti argues "Eppur Si Muove? From the title of this seminar I would surely remove the question mark. In fact, there are some obvious innovations in the tormented Italian political life. The first factor to consider is the exclusion of the fringe extremists from the part of the two greater protagonist parties in the political activity of the last few years. The natural consequence of this purge is the obviously evident convergence of political programs. [...]

### Eppur si muove? Yes, perhaps, but it is not enough...

by Alessandro Santo



Alessandro Santo states: "I also perceive the change, but do not think it is sufficient... I admit that I am following this election campaign in a distracted way, reading the newspapers, listening to TV and clicking on Internet sites but without personally busying myself, without participating in the debates of my town. It is clearly perceived that there is a certain tendency to want to be presented to the voters as novelties, different and "younger" and at times I think that we are on the right road. [...]

### When in Rome, should we do as the Romans do?

by Rachel Owens



I have always found the complex world of Italian politics deeply intriguing if slightly disturbing. Coming from Britain, where the political system is based on majoritarian rule and strong governments, our Italian counterpart is bewildering in its fallibility and inherent instability. Why is it that Italy has undergone so many more changes in government than most other Western European countries? - the newly elected administration will be Italy 27th since 1978, compared with seven in the UK over the same time period. [...]

### Stand Up Italy: Less Talk and More Action

by Ketevan Bochorishvili



Well, being in Italy and especially in Rome, where the political power is concentrated, I was impressed by the Italians' passion for their internal affairs. Usually, the main topics of discussion were Italian economics, soccer and politics; but recently politics surprisingly HA SUPERATO...over to soccer, which is the national sport. However, I could say that nowadays the real national sport seems to be, not soccer anymore, but just talking about politics. [...]

### The Italian game seen from the grandstands

by Stephen Benians



Fans of Italy tend to ask the same sort of question as they look on from the stands: Why at each election time do Italians have to vote in full anticipation of being ripped off once again by a politician who represents only the ruling cast's interests? This is often followed up by: "I would love to work there, if only there was work". And the latter is often asked by talented Italians, outside Italy, like fans who dream of playing for their team. [...]

### "In politics it is better to be feared than to be loved"

by Koert Debeuf



When you look to Italian politics from a distance, it seems to be a normal democracy. Since the nineties there are two major political groups - one of Silvio Berlusconi, the other of Romano Prodi – which alternatively win the elections. Although a lot of people did rise an eyebrow about some things Berlusconi said in public, basically the political quarrels were not more incomprehensible than they were in for example Belgium or the Netherlands. The only difference from a distant view was that Italian politicians are just a bit more warm blooded than their colleagues in Northern Europe. [...]

### A competition for workers to set free from 1,000€ jobs

by Stefano Casertano



"Looking for a job is a job itself, and as such it has to be compensated": reading this actual statement from the Italian "Partito Democratico" electoral program makes one wonder if the left of the country ever updated its cultural references from 1968. On the other side, for the "Popolo della Libertà" the focus is on the "full employment to transform the flexibility of entering the job, into opportunities of employment stability and professional growth". For the well informed, "Full Employment" was a concept first stated by the British economist William Beveridge in 1942, representing a milestones for Clement Attlee's Labour government. [...]