WINNING EUROPE'S BIG CHALLENGE



Addresses at the conference **«IMMIGRATION.** Winning Europe's Big Challenge» Rome, Nov. 18, 2023

PATRIOTS FOR EUROPE FOUNDATION

25 Boulevard Romain Rolland - 75014 Paris - France N. SIRET: 823 400 239 00021 Publications Director : **Raphaël Audouard**

contact@pfe-foundation.eu - www.pfe-foundation.eu

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INTRODUCTION

by Raphaël Audouard



Raphaël Audouard, Director of Identity and Democracy Foundation, France

d like to start by thanking you for coming to this conference organized by the Identity and Democracy

Foundation. I'm the director of the Identity and Democracy Foundation, the European foundation of the Identity and Democracy Party, which brings together patriotic parties from all over Europe, including the Rassemblement National in France, the Lega in Italy and the Alternative for Germany. I would also like to thank Mr Daniele Scalea and the Centre Machiavel for the help they have given us in organizing this event, and I am delighted that the Centre Machiavel has decided to join the Identity and Democracy Foundation.

This membership is a good step towards strengthening cooperation between patriots throughout Europe. At a time when the threats to our continent, our cultures and our nations are increasing, this cooperation between patriots is more necessary than ever. For a long time, the patriots just fought to defend their identity and their nation without taking account what was happening in other countries. But the fight is

Another policy is possible: curbing immigration is the key to protecting European civilization

international. The same dangers, like mass migration, islamization, globalization, wokism threaten all our nations and we have to fight together to protect both our national identities and culture and our common European civilization. This kind of event shows that we, the patriots, are the true defender of Europe. Not the multicultural Europe of the leftists neither the commercial Europe of the liberals and Brussels bureaucracy but the civilizational Europe, the one that generations of Europeans have built, and of which Rome is one of the centers and jewels. I'm delighted to have been able to organize this conference in a city so symbolic of European culture and wonder.

Mass immigration is one of the most serious threats to our nations and to Europe, as it jeopardizes the very existence of our cultures and civilization. Its consequences are manifold, both in cultural and security terms, and we will have the opportunity to address them during this day. This phenomenon is massive, but also unprecedented. Never before has our continent seen such an influx of migrants. In the face of this, the elites in Brussels refuse to react, even though this issue is becoming one of the main concerns of our fellow citizens. The European Pact on Migration and Asylum currently under discussion will not solve any problems. Worse still, under the guise of combating illegal immigration, this text risks penalizing the people of Europe even more.

At this conference, we're going to show that another policy is possible. We're going to present the realities of immigration and the alternative policies that patriots are proposing to put an end to this threat to the future of European civilization. I hope this event will convince you, or will finish to convince you, of the dangers of immigration, but also of the fact that this phenomenon is not inevitable, and that it is possible to put an end to it with a real political will.



DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF EUCLOSE The French point of view

by Nicolas Pouvreau-Monti

6 – Immigration. Winning Europe's big challenge

The fertility level of Europeans is at an all-time low. The way out of the demographic winter passes through a policy of aid to families and not through «open doors» to immigration

the views I am going to share with you come from a French perspective – not only because I'm a Frenchman, but because the demographic situation of France reflects quite accurately the trends at work all across Western Europe. Along with the UK, France was one of the very first European countries to experience massive non-European immigration, beginning in the 1960s by what was mostly a temporary work immigration at the time. Then by the late 1970s, family reunification policies were implemented which drastically changed both the scale and nature of non-European immigration, mostly from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Turkey, which has settled down in the country since then. This dynamic still goes

o some extent,

ve indeed: that is the demographic winter into which the European continent has been plunged for several decades now. We owe this concept of demographic winter to Professor Gérard-François Dumont, economist, demographer and member of the Steering Committee of our organization. This concept covers a very clear reality: in many developed countries, since the end of the demographic revival following the Second World War (commonlu known as the baby boom), fertility rates have been persistently below the level for simple replacement of generations, which in countries with a high level of health is 2.1 children per woman.

However, it is important to note that the intensity of the demographic winter can vary greatly from country to country and from period to period. For example, at the turn of the 2020s, among countries in demo-



Nicolas Pouvreau-Monti, Co-Founder of the Immigration and Demography Observatory, France

being in Rome today, it should be mentioned that Italy shows a striking example of that demographic winter. Every year, Italy has 250,000 to 300,000 more deaths than births. The annual number of Italian births has been reduced by 31% between 2008 and 2021, and the current fertility level has fallen to only 1.24 children per woman. Italy's population is now less than 59 million, and it is projected that there will be 8 million fewer Italians by 2050. The situation of other major European countries is actually not much better: for example Spain's fertility rate is now 1.26 only, while in Europe's most populated country, Germany, the fertility rate is only 1.53.

As professor Dumont outlines : "although the demographic winter is widespread in Europe, it is not unique to Europe. It can also be seen in other parts of the world, in East Asia with South Korea and Japan, in Oceania with Australia and New Zealand, and in Transcaucasia with Armenia and Georgia". However, there is one key factor which sets the situation of Europe apart: this long-term decline in European fertility has been occurring at the same time as a strong

Population and age structure [Insee, 2021]

Continent / subcontinent	Under 15	15 to 64	65 and more
Africa	40,1	56,3	3,6
Latin & Caribean America	23,6	67,2	9,2
North America	18,0	64,8	17,2
Asia	23,3	67,6	9,1
Europe	16,0	64,5	19,5
Oceania	23,6	63,4	13,0
World	25,3	65,1	9,6

A preliminary observation: Europe is the fastest aging continent and is geographically located ahead of Africa, the continent with the youngest population (this graph and the one on the following pages were realized by the Immigration and Demography Observatory)

on nowadays and is now bigger than ever – I will have the opportunity to come back to this aspect later on. To understand the full demographic impact of immigration, we have to look at it from a broader perspectigraphic winter, fertility ranged from 0.9 to 1.8 children per woman. These variations can be explained by a variety of factors, including differences in family policies as well as cultural aspects. Since we have the chance of population growth on the neighboring continent - which is Africa. The average fertility rate in Africa will be 4.18 children per woman in 2023,

that is to say double the population renewal level. Twice as many children are born every year in Nigeria alone as in all the countries

of the European Union combined. Having already doubled since 1990, the population of Africa is expected to grow by a further billion by 2050, from 1.4 billion to 2.4 billion people, half of whom will be under the age of 25. The result is a reversed situation fertility rate in our country fell from 2.03 children per woman in 2010 to 1.8 children per woman last year. The natural balance, that is to say the difference between

live births and

deaths on the

national terri-

tory, reached its

lowest level sin-

ce 1946 last year,

and closer to

closer

getting

The birth rate of ethnic French is in sharp decline, while that of non-Ethnic French is rising strongly

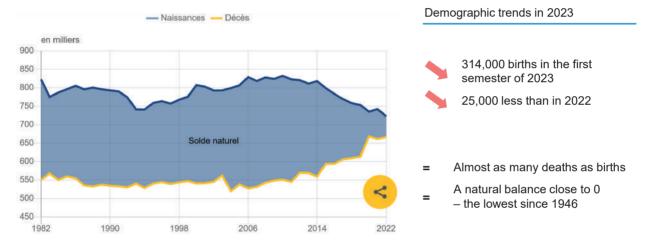
> zero. It has been divided by 5 between 2006 and 2022.

However, it is important to emphasize that this demographic winter in France conceals very different realities, and even contrasting trends depending on the population segment. This is particularly true when we look at the breakdown of births by parents' own place of birth. If we take the year 2000 (just over 20 years ago) as our chronological reference point:

• Since the year 2000, the annual number of births with two parents born in France has fallen by 22% - almost by a quarter;

• While over the same period, births with at least one parent born outside of the EU have risen by 40%, and those with two parents born outside of the EU have risen by 72%.

This means that we are observing contradictory fertility dynamics: the "native" birth rate is contracting



The demographic collapse does not spare France. From 1982 to 2022, the natural balance between births and deaths has declined, hitting its lowest point since 1946 (the year after the end of the World War). In the Hexagon by now the balance between births and deaths is almost zero

on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea: the world's oldest continent (Europe) is now face to face with the world's youngest continent (Africa), whose standards of living are undeniably lower. Today, 40% of the African population is under 15, compared with only 16% of the European population. At the same time, almost 20% of the European population is aged 65 or over, compared with just 3.6% of the African population. For a long time, France seemed to be a relative exception among European nations, with a fertility rate often close to the population replacement level. Unfortunately, this reassuring vision is no longer valid. The total



sharply, while the birth rate from non-EU immigrants is increasing very significantly. This is reflected in the distribution of births in 2022: almost a third of all children born in France last year had at least one parent born outside of the European Union.

To explain these facts, it is important to understand the combined action of two explanatory factors which can be observed in France but also in Europe as a whole: the acceleration in migration flows on the one hand, and the different birth rates of immigrants on the other hands.

Let's start with the acceleration in migration flows, which can be seen through a number of indicators. In the presentation being shown, I use the example of the rise in the number of first residence permits granted each year in mainland France. If we go back to our millennium milestone: between 1999 and 2022, the annual number of first residence permits issued by our country increased by 153%. By definition, these residence permits go to people from countries outside of the European Economic Area. Admittedly, not all immigrants with these permits will settle in France forever. However, INSEE (which is France's national office for statistics) tells us that, on average, over the last fifteen years,



29% 69% At least one parent born outside the EU 000 Annual births by migratory origin of parents - trends since 2000 : Both parents born in France: -22% At least 1 parent born outside the EU: +40% 2 parents born outside the EU: +72% 89% of children whose two parents were born abroad have two parents born outside the European Union.

Births in France (2022)

The decline in births in France is not the same for all national components. Since 2000, the number of births with both French parents has decreased by 22%. At the same time, births with a non-EU parent have increased by 40% and even 72% with both non-EU parents. By 2022, nearly one-third of children born in France had a parent born outside the European Union

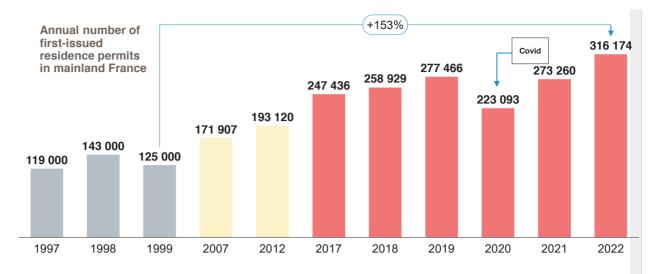
for every 1 immigrant leaving France, more than 4 immigrants have settled there. On average as well, the yearly number of first residence permits granted under Emmanuel Macron has been 23% higher than under François Hollande and 41% higher than under Nicolas Sarkozy, who were his two predecessors.

The main nationalities receiving new

residence permits have remained unchanged in recent years: Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Then comes a number of various Sub-Saharan countries.

There are other instruments that allow us to approach the amplification of migratory flows in France. One of those is, of course, the dynamics of asylum: between 2009 and 2022, the





In 23 years, the number of residence permits granted by the French government to immigrants has almost tripled. This is in addition to political asylum applications, which increased between 2009 and 2022 by 227 percent: from 42,000 to 137,000. Then add illegal immigration, which is difficult to calculate, but can be estimated from the data of special medical assistance

annual number of first-time asylum applications lodged in France rose by 227%. We received 42,000 in 2009 and 137,000 in 2022. The three main nationalities represented in the first asylum applications registered in 2022 were Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Turkey. We could also talk about illegal immigration, which by its very nature is difficult to approach, but whose upward trend can be approximated by an indicator such as the special medical aid, (which is specially reserved for illegal immigrants): over the last 18 years, between 2004 and 2022, the number of beneficiaries has increased by 165%, which attests to the more global trend in illegal immigration. In 2018, a parliamentary report estimated that the number of illegal immigrants residing in the district of Seine-Saint-Denis alone (which is located in the North-East of Greater Paris) was between 150,000 and 400,000 - which is equivalent to a quarter of the «official» population of the area. This acceleration in migration flows has therefore been clearly established.

The second explanatory factor is the different birth rates of immigrant populations. The chart you see here is based on the work of demographer François Héran, who is a professor at the Collège de France, and in particular on a study published in 2019 that was based on birth rate data for 2014. Algerian immigrant women in France had an average of 3.69 children per woman. This was not only double that of non-immigrant women, but also significantly more than Algerian women in Alge-

ria - where the fertility rate was just 2,9 children per woman. The same differential applies to Tunisian, Moroccan and Turkish immigrant women,

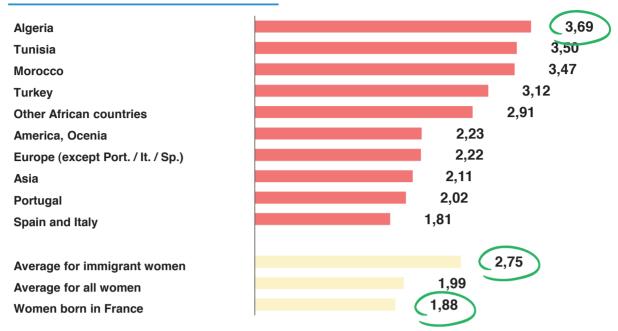
Immigrant women postpone pregnancy until after settling in France, also encouraged by government incentives to fertility

whose fertility rate was between 3.12 and 3.5 children per woman, whereas the fertility rate in their countries of origin is between 2.1 and 2.4 children per woman. Demographic studies indicate that the fertility rates of immigrants tend to fall in the next generation and gradually converge towards the average for native-born people. However, this convergence is slow, and its effects are greatly mitigated by the continuation and acceleration of new inflows. To support this observation, I'd like to share with you this graph from a public agency study published at the beginning of the year, which shows the distribution of births to immigrant women according to the distance in time separating them from their first arrival in France: the part in red concerns births that took place before settlement, the part in blue concerns births after settlement. The findings are clear: the peak in the number of births to immigrant women occurs

in the first year after their arrival in France. It remains at a particularly high level for the next five years, then gradually declines. We

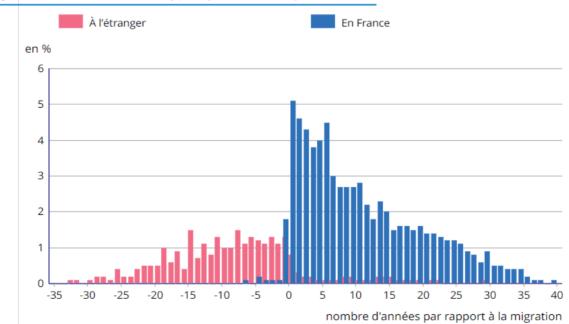
might postulate that some women delay pregnancy until their immigration plans have been fulfilled, and then that the support services offered once they are in France encourage them to continue in this fertility direction.

I'm going to conclude here so that the next roundtable can start. I think you now have a fairly clear idea of the major migratory and demographic trends at work in France and Europe as a whole. If these trends evolve «naturally», left to their own devices, they are bound to continue and grow in the years and decades to come. On the other hand, if political choices are made to redirect some of these trends, the scenario Children per woman [country of birth, 2014]



Above: data from the study by François Héran, a professor at the Collège de France, show that the fertility of Maghrebi women who have just immigrated to France is significantly higher than those who remained in their countries of origin. In subsequent generations, however, the rate of fertility is at the same level as that of native French women. Below, the distribution of births according to the time distance separating them from the immigrant mother's first arrival in France. In the first five years after arrival in France, the birth rate is very high

Immigrant women: distribution of births by place [Insee, 2019-2020].



will obviously be much more open. In this respect, family policy is an area that needs to be investigated. For example, according to various surveys, the French want between 2.3 and 2.7 children per woman, which is almost 50% higher than the actual fertility rate in France. If we turn our attention to Hungary: the Hungarian government has implemented a wide set of polices aimed at supporting families and the desire of their people to have children – as an alternative to immigration. There have been some very interesting results: Hungary's fertility rate has risen by nearly 30% since 2010. In our view, it is therefore important not to consider migratory flows as the only possible way of meeting our demographic challenges between now and 2050. A pan-European strategy of investment in family policy (led by nation-States) could be an interesting option, especially to maintain and rebuild the cohesion of our countries. Thank you for your attention.

STOPPING THE FLOWS DIPLOMACY, THE ONLY WAY

by Guglielmo Picchi

The Union seems to be fugitive on the field of diplomacy in the Sahel area. European states must do more, Italy first, to control with embassies what is the continent's real external border

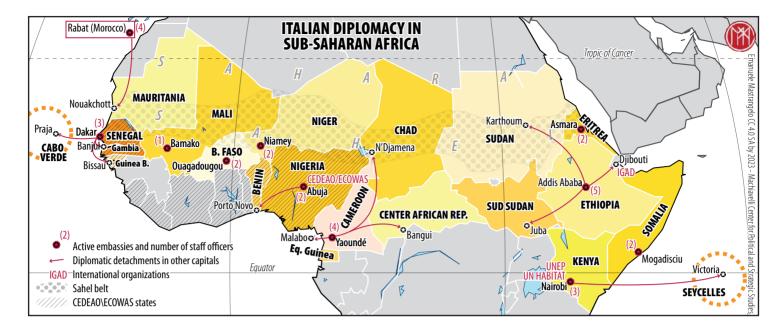
> he last Italian will probably be born in 2225 and the Italian ethnic population will be extinct by 2307. This is the apocalypse that awaits us. As is now clear to everyone, immigration is not the only solution to the demographic problem in Europe. Family policies have in a whole range of states, when yielded significant results. They are however

pursued seriously, yielded significant results. They are, however, extremely long processes. In contrast, the fertility of immigrant families, of immigrant women, is vastly higher than that of Eu-



Guglielmo Picchi, Director for International Relations of the Machiavelli Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Italy





The Sahel area has few diplomatic missions from Italy, with insufficient means and personnel to do an adequate job of countering African migration to Europe

ropean women, so at the moment we can only mitigate the effect, slow it down. In the face of this demographic landscape, it becomes clear that combating illegal immigration is a priority if we do not want the apocalyptic scenario of the extinction of European peoples to be realized. A prospect that applies not I don't believe because there is no will of the member states to pursue them in a coordinated way and because there are different sensitivities between individual countries and between the different political colors that the governments that take turns in our capitals may have. This makes it difficult to identify a collective and coordinated practical solution on the part of the European Union. As I have learned in the course of my work over all these years, if and when the European

Population displacements are not something inescapable, as we are instead being sold by the mainstream narrative. On the contrary, like all geopolitical phenomena, it can be ruled, and it is extremely important to do so

only to Italy, but more or less to all other European countries, variously shifted in time.

The issue has a European dimension. Not only because it involves the entire continent, but because the Union has its own responsibility. I have great respect for the EU institutions, but on the migration phenomenon the EU has made one of the biggest flops of all its initiatives. So, I don't believe in «European solutions» of migration policies. Union puts in place migration policies that are serious about countering illegal immigration, economic policies that make it easier for families, I will be the happiest person in the world. In the meantime, I think each member state has to start doing its part. So let's see what Italy can do.

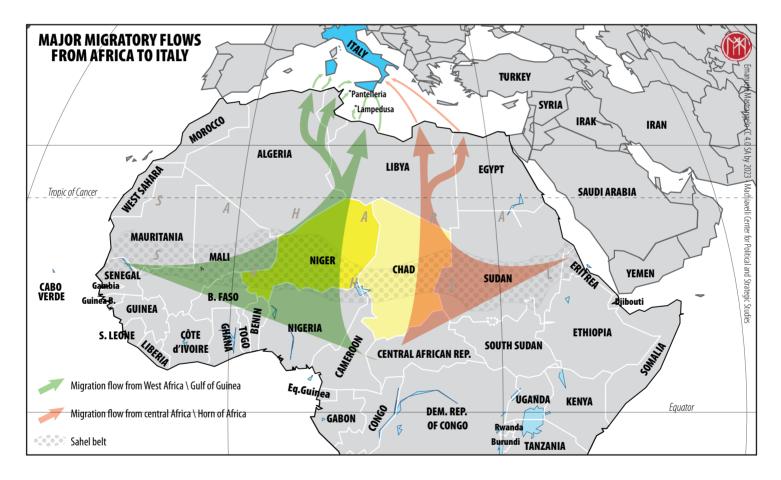
A few years ago there was a minister of the interior who when he set out to try to stop landings succeeded. A success that tells us two things: first, that if we want to stop the illegal flows we are perfectly capable of being able to do so. Consequently, that these population shifts are by no means something inescapable, as we are instead being peddled by the mainstream narrative that it is an epochal phenomenon for which nothing can be done. On the contrary, like all geopolitical phenomena, it can be governed. And it is extremely important to do so. But also extremely complex. It is a phenomenon that can be governed with investment and long-term planning. So it is not short-term, but it is medium- to long-term. However, it can be done.

Nonetheless, as long as we focus only on the emergency part, so stopping the landings, you can certainly do a very good job but you don't go to solve the root of the problem. The vast majority, more than 80 percent, of those who migrate to the European Union are economic migrants. They are not immigrants entitled to any kind of protection, including the fancy ones that are provided by the Italian legal system, with paradoxical situations where the «right» to humanitarian protection and political asylum is granted simply because the journey to enter the country illegally has...caused stress to the immigrant. A harm that the twisting and fanciful inter-

pretation that certain judiciary can apply to those illegal immigrants who by now have already firmly set foot within the country's territory. So stopping landings is absolutely right. So is stemming the arrivals with international collaborative solutions. The recent agreement made by the Italian government with Albania so that up to a maximum of 36,000 migrants can be processed per year, so 3,000 per month, out of Italian territory and into Albanian territory is an extremely attractive solution. And it is no coincidence that others have tried a similar path. Recently, the British prime

ment was rejected by British institutions, so now the government in London will proceed to draft new legislation that can pass the British Supreme Court's scrutiny. It is objective, then, that an agreement to stem across the border the influx of illegal immigrants is a useful and viable path.

However, if we Italians really want to stop illegal immigration, we need to go to the sources of the migration flows that reach the Peninsula. There are essentially two main ones: those that come from sub-Saharan West Africa, almost all of not even have diplomatic representations. Now understand well that if we want to deal with the migration phenomenon in a structured way, the first thing is to ask ourselves: what resources do we already have there? At the moment, the only thing we have in some of these countries is ENI, otherwise we have nothing. Some time ago, just with the Centro Studi Machiavelli I published a study to analyze what is the Italian diplomatic presence in these places, finding how it has increased over the years. Italy has finally opened diplomatic posts. Why do we need embassies? Because em-



Migratory flows from sub-Saharan Africa to Italy pass through centuries-old caravan routes, mainly crossing the Sahel states of Niger and Chad, to reach the North African coast and from there our continent by sea

minister had made the deal to send illegal immigrants to Rwanda, a somewhat more complicated destination than Albania because of the distance. But that kind of arrangewhich pass through Niger and then Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, and those that come from East Africa, which basically pass through Chad and finally, again, enter Libya or Egypt. These are the two largest lines of migration affecting Italy.

So the Sahel is the relevant part, a region where practically Italy has never been present and where it did bassies are the first point of political dialogue with the countries where they are opened. Having an embassy greatly facilitates the process of making all kinds of agreements: security agreements, cooperation agreements, police training to try to stop the transit of migration, and also to create the conditions for alternative economies for local people so that they have the incentive to live off their own and not to migrate or to help human traffickers, for example, by giving shelter to those who pass through.

Having opened embassies should mean having the ambassador. But when you go and see if all the staff positions have been filled, you find that the sub-Saharan posts have all been left blank: no one wanted to go there. A wake-up call: our country needs to analyze what has been done and what is the infrastructure that we can put in place to prepare to fight illegal immigration. Otherwise the battle is lost before it starts. So this is the necessary upstream investment that Italy must make in every way. The Farnesina knows this, President Meloni is aware of this.

So diplomatic presence is essential, especially in the transit belt countries. Both as an Italian presence and as a presence of international cooperation, with the aim of creating alternative economic fa-

The only system to stop the flows is to make long-term investments in African countries brics to human trafficking. Moreover, our intelligence services know very well what are the places of departure, collection centers, transit and finally the routes of travel of illegal immigrants. When someone shows up undocumented we have a very refined system that allows us to even identify what dialects, what cities people are coming from. So we are able to map well where these migrants are coming from. It follows that we can go to the countries they are leaving from and there we can make real agreements, empowering and training their diplomatic personnel, training their police, and most importantly making upstream long-term investments. This is the only system if we want to stop the flows.

It is possible to achieve it. Yes, investment is needed, but all in all it is limited, because any economic allocation for diplomatic presence and cooperation is simply redirecting expenditures that already exist. But in terms of international cooperation, it has to be considered that as wonderful as it is to go to Mato Grosso, we most likely need more to go and invest resources throughout the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa. You have to put the right people in the right place to follow up on certain kinds of dossiers, especially considering that in a country like ours the deep state, the deep state, the bureaucracy often holds the politics. And therefore the right man in the right place can make all the decisions. A government can make the laws it wants, but then whether and how they are applied, the interpretation of them, depends on the official or the magistrate under whom they pass. So this is a longterm investment that Italy needs to make on its bureaucracy: to train it properly and to identify what are the right resources, the right people to put at the top of these types of projects.

I am quite convinced that the Italian government is taking the right steps here. We are on our own, though. As mentioned above, there are no common steps that you can take within the European Union. And the recent events that we have seen show us that, we must not fall into the trap of blackmail: that is,



Photo: Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken CC BY SA 2.0 DEED



On this and the other page, two insignia of internationally led initiatives in Niger aimed at governing migration and convincing local people to stay in their own country to contribute to its economic and social growth

the Tunisian president on duty, the Erdogan on duty or the new coup in Niger, who under the guise of stopping immigration blackmails you. And then uses the immigration weapon simply as an ATM so they can cash in and get their share of the loot. It has been rightly said that if the Tunisian government had not wanted to, the 5,000 people who landed in a single day in Lampedusa with an entire flotilla would never have arrived. And this is kind of what also happened on the border with Lithuania and Poland, when Belarus instrumentally brought migrants from Africa or Bangladesh and escorted them with its own soldiers to the border. These are instruments of migratory pressure, so they are in fact being used as a form of warfare.

This is also happening. It is no coincidence that of all the coups there have been in the Sahel over the last few years, the most important one as a consequence for us was definitely the one in Niger. And if we don't have a strong political presence on the ground, and therefore the diplomatic network, with which to put in place all those kinds of agreements that are basically both economic cooperation and cooperation in terms of security, so helping, training both the police and the armed forces in border surveillance, we are not going to be able to stop the immigration that comes through this country. A strategy that concerns Union has one of the largest diplomatic networks in the world, with mammoth staff and funding, 15 percent of which is paid for by Italian taxpayers' money. But the effect we get from it is absolutely negligible. So we have a fantastic diplomatic network but with zero ability to influence the decisions of states in migration transit zones. By the way, few people know, the EU special envoy to the Sahel is actually an Italian. We have had an EU

The EU has a diplomatic network that is 15% paid for by Italy. We have had an EU envoy in the Sahel for almost three years, and there have been only coups there, no benefits for Italy and a continuous rise of immigration

Italy but also Europe: if on the EU tables we can convince our partners that that is one of the lines of the external border of the Union, all the better. However, allow me a pessimistic note: in words everyone agrees but from what I see I think a common strategy at the moment is difficult to achieve.

I want to conclude with a remark about the European Union. The

envoy for almost three years, and in the Sahel there have been only coups, no benefits for Italy and a continuous increase in migration. To what conclusions does this news lead us? To the realization that we must get busy as individual states, all do our part, preferably in cooperation. Then if and when the European Union comes along we will all be happier. But in the meantime, do it ourselves.

THE SUICIDAL POLICY of OPEN OPEN DOORS

di Ruben Pulido

Insufficient manpower and means, redistribution of illegal immigrants, tribute paid to countries that blackmail Europe by threatening to send us immigrants. The EU's borders seem to have become a colander

illegal immigrants. It is the magnitude of the problem, but we are not talking about an amount accumulated over years, no. We are talking about the amount of illegal immigration registered only so far this year, the 2023, to Europe. More than 200,000 - only concentrated on the Mediterranean migratory routes (which set their destination over Italy, Greece or Malta) and the Atlantic routes that are bound for the Canary Islands. These Spanish islands alone, with geographical dimensions that you will already know, have supported the arrival of more than 32,000 illegal immigrants so far this year. Then there is the Balkan route, because not all illegal entries that take place in Europe occur by sea: approximately a third of the total take place through illegal immigration routes that depart, above all, from Turkey. And it's important to point this out because it's something we'll delve into later. More than 90,000 illegal immigrants have used these routes to enter European territory illegally between January and October of 2023.

ore than

300,000

It's alarming, right? But it would be even more alarming if I told you that since 2015 there have been more than 3,400,000 the volume of immigrants who have violated the sovereignty of our States. In less than 10 years, the equivalent of the total population of Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Eritrea have entered through illegality (let us highlight this). Almost three times the population of Estonia or more than five times the census of Luxembourg.

Who can stand something like that? Especially considering that the cultural profile of the majority of this illegal immigration has absolutely nothing to do with Western values. An abyss separates us. And it is the first thing we must assume. On the other hand, it should be noted that we have this data thanks to statistics. And it may seem silly to you that I make allusions to statistics as if it were a public body. But I talk about this because the total of illegal immigration that I have told you about it is intercepted illegal immigration. It is illegal immigration dated, counted by FRONTEX or the different police authorities of the European states.

How many actually enter? Perhaps we will not know exactly, but the different political analysts who study this problem can get an idea. On this question I can talk to you about Spain. And to talk about Spain or Italy is to talk about France, to talk about Germany, Belgium or any other European State. Because Spain or Italy are the starting point. The gateway for illegal immigration to Europe. Can anyone think that the more than 45,000 illegal immigrants who have entered Spain so far this year are going to stay in Spanish territory? Or the more than 140,000 that have entered Italy in the last 10 months? Half most likely ends up on your streets, on the streets of the countries of many of you who are here today. For example, in the province of Almería, a small region in the south of Spain, in Andalusia. An average of between 400 and 500 ves-



Ruben Pulido, Political Analyst specialized in Immigration Issues, Spain

sels per year have been dated in the last three years. Between 400 and 500 boats arriving in a geographical area with barely 250 kilometers of coastline. Do you believe that with such logistical pressure - that with data). Do you think this is the real total? It is undoubtedly a figure that gives us an image of the magnitude of the problem we face, but FRON-TEX agents unfortunately cannot intercept and count all migrants

According to FRONTEX about 97,000 illegal immigrants entered from the Balkan route last year. But this is an approximate figure, as it is impossible to say how many passed through without being counted by border authorities

such a high number of vessels - it is possible to intercept all those that arrive? I already tell you no. There are not enough agents. And this is an issue that affects all active illegal immigration routes in Europe.

I told you before that more than 90,000 illegal immigrants have entered through the Balkan route so far this year, almost 100,000 (97,300 according to FRONTEX who enter Europe illegally. It is an impossible question, an immense majority will be intercepted, classified and dated, but there will be many who will escape our control. Because as happens in Spain, there are not enough agents. But what we must urgently solve is not the lack of human resources to control this problem, enough of this.

What we must urgently solve is our level of political determination in

the face of illegal immigration. Because the greatest deterrent effect, the greatest frontier, we will always achieve through our position on this problem. Through our political position and the determination of our actions. Enforcing our immigration regulations is not an act of racism or xenophobia, enforcing our immigration regulations is acting consistently in the face of this threat. Because we are facing a threat. I was talking to you before ability to control the number of illegal immigrants entering Europe. And it is important to keep this in mind. It is extremely important to explain this issue. Because? Because evil takes advantage of weaknesses, evil uses these back doors (pun intended) and it is not a conspiracy theory. Is a reality.

So that you can understand what I'm talking about, I hope you will allow me once again to use what is happening in my country, Spain, as an example. I talk about the entry of jihadists through illegal immi-

> gration. Illegal immigration networks are being used by Jihad, European examples too. Abdesalem Lassoued, Brussels October attack,

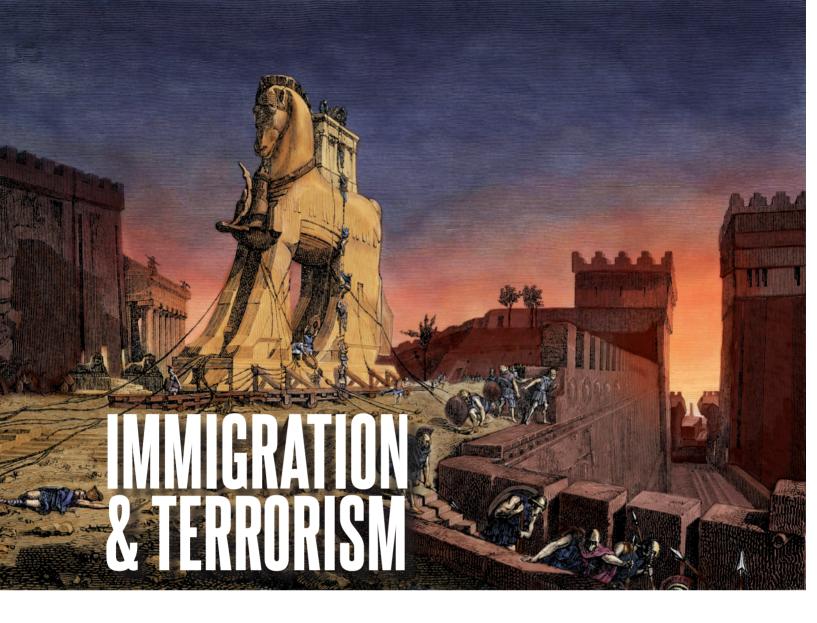
«Distribution quotas for illegal immigrants among European countries... A magnificent decision! Someone enters European territory illegally and we give them the opportunity to camp out in the kitchen in our house...» entered for Lampedusa in 2011. And how does Europe intend to combat this problem? Well, we've seen it for years. First they started with distribution quotas (back in 2015, many will remember it). Magnificent decision! Someone enters European territory the term war may be too shocking – although nothing could be further from the truth if we take into consideration the facts accomplished by many of these Maghreb regimes. And when I talk about threat or hybrid war, I am referring to the use of illegal And recently we have seen this type of behavior with Tunisia as well. Can anyone in their right mind think that more than 130 boats can leave Tunisian coasts without Kaïs Saied's men being aware of it? More than 130 boats left more than 5,000 immigrants on the



Spain, the borders with Morocco at Melilla and Ceuta (on the other page). The migratory pressure on these borders represents a weapon of blackmail toward Europe

illegally and we give them the opportunity to enter the kitchen of our home, it is the undoubtedly correct message (read the irony). Later, someone in Europe (we all know who) had the brilliant idea of starting the cycle of economic injections to third states so that they control the problem for us. At first maybe It may sound good, but we have already seen what something like this has led us to. Currently, the Maghreb states have detonated a hybrid threat against Europe – and I say threat because perhaps immigration as a weapon and illegal immigrants as ammunition.

If Morocco has an internal political conflict or urgent economic needs, you only have to send more than 10,000 illegal immigrants to the Spanish borders in less than 24 hours and in less than 48, you will have 30 million euros. This occurred between May 17 and 18, 2021, If Turkey urgently needs to have promised and unconsummated European benefits, iIt directs a migration threat on the Greek borders with the use of much of the illegal immigration concentrated in its "refugee camps". And so, the EU has already allocated almost 10 billion euros - which is said to be early - to Turkey after the signing of the migration agreement in 2016. island of Lampedusa in just 24 hours. This does not happen if it is not with the connivance and involvement of the illegal immigration mafias in coordination with the Tunisian authorities. The magnitude of the logistical displacement that mafias can have is notable. but not of these characteristics. And what happened shortly after? The EU released 127 million euros of financial aid to Tunisia amid the Lampedusa crisis. Who could have imagined? It is the monetization of illegal immigration, the use of immigration as a preferential weapon of diplomatic pressure from the Maghreb states. The use of immigration as a weapon and immigrants as ammunition. We cannot continue subrogating control of immigration to third states.



by Giovanni Giacalone

The «open door» immigration policy has introduced into Europe an unspecified but huge number of terrorists, extremists, recruiters and candidates for future radicalization

he ongoing war between Israel and Hamas led to an increase in the state of alert in Europe due to the risk of at-

tacks. Two have already occurred: on October 16th, 45-year-old Tunisian citizen Abdesalem Lassoued shot dead two Swedish fans in Brussels; the attack was later claimed by ISIS. Three days earlier in Arras, northern France, 20-year-old Chechen Mohammed Mogouchkov stabbed a teacher to death while shouting «Allahu Akbar». On the same day, a series of evacuations were carried out at the Louvres and Versailles, as a result of bomb alarms. Nothing new, unfortunately, since during the ISIS years, in the second decade of 2000, Europe became a systematic target for a wave of terror attacks that left undeletable marks. The Bataclan (Nov 2015), Charlie Hebdo (Jan 2015), the Stade de France attack (Nov 2015), the Berlin Christmas market attack (Dec 2016), the Nice Promenade attack on the 4th of July (July 2016), the Jewish Museum in Brussels (May 2014), the Malbeek and Brussels airport bombings (Mar 2016), the Rambla terror attack in Barcelona (August 2017), the Westminster attack (Mar 2017), the London Bridge attack (June 2017), the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich-London (May 2013), and many more.

Additionally, we have also seen a major rise in antisemitic attacks throughout Europe; the exterior walls of several Jewish businesses and homes in French and German cities were recently daubed with the Star of David; actions that recall extremely dark and dramatic periods in European

history that we would never want to see again. The Italian government, as well as other European executives, have decided to strengthen controls at the Schengen borders to avoid infiltration by potential terrorists. A measure which, however, appears quite useless when no action is taken to seal the main route through which terrorists arrive, namely the Mediterranean route from Africa. The flow heading to Sicily. Thousands of illegal immigrants continue to arrive on the Sicilian coasts only to be redirected to the ports of other Italian cities, effectively opening entry to potential terrorists.

The mantra «terrorists don't come on boats» has long since been refuted with facts, but unfortunately there are those who continue to downplay or do not want to see. As a matter of fact, from the very beginning, it was unclear why some members of the political arenas and even some within the institutions, claimed that "terrorists would not come" through the illegal flow originating from Africa, since there was no base for such a claim. The facts speak for themselves. The latest case is preciselv that of Abdesalem Lassoued, the Brussels attacker mentioned above, who landed in Lampedusa in 2011 already radicalized and belonging to the Tunisian jihadist group Ansar al-Sharia, a fact which also led him to imprisonment in Tunisia. Furthermore, there are two other Tunisians who are sadly known and all arrived in Europe on boats via the Sicilian route, namely Brahim Aouissaoui and Anis Amri. The first killed three people, beheading one, in Nice's Cathedral in October 2020; the second is the perpetrator of the 2016 Christmas market attack in Berlin, who was killed in Sesto San Giovanni in an exchange of fire with the police on December 23rd 2016. Marouan Elkroumi, Tunisian and nephew of Imed Hamouda (reported by the French authorities as the leader of a jihadist cell) had instead entered Italy twice via Lampedusa, before being sent back to Tunisia at the end of 2020. Another Tunisian



Giovanni Giacalone (Centro Studi Machiavelli). On the facing page, Henri-Paul Motte, «*Le Cheval de Troie*» (1874)

citizen, Noussair Louati, was arrested in Ravenna in 2015 while he was about to join ISIS; he also landed in Sicily in 2011. After being sentenced to three and a half years in prison he regretted it and was sent back to Tunisia once released in 2018.

Also arriving on boats were the Gambians Sillah Ousman and Alagie Touray who had taken part in military training in a jihadist mobile camp in Libya and were ready to carry out at-

Syria. In October 2017, Anis Hanachi, a 25-year-old Tunisian who landed in Sicily posing as a Libyan citizen and with a false name, was arrested in the Ferrara area. Following his deportation from Italian territory in 2014, he went to Syria to fight as a jihadist in the ranks of ISIS and then returned to Italy where he was arrested. His brother, Ahmed Hanachi, also an illegal immigrant, had stabbed two women in Nice on 1 October 2017 before being shot down by French police. Then there is the case of Mehdi Ben Nasr, who also arrived in Sicily on board a boat together with two hundred other illegal immigrants in 2015; presenting himself as a politically persecuted individual under the false name "Mohamed Ben Sar", he had deceived the Italian authorities. The individual in question was in fact the head of an Al-Qaeda cell and ready to carry out attacks in Europe.

These are just some of the cases of jihadists arriving through the Sicilian route, but it is impossible to know how many others have entered. It is impossible to get an idea of how many potential terrorists

The mantra "terrorists don't come in boats" has long been disproved by the facts, but unfortunately there are those who continue to minimize or do not want to see. But the facts speak for themselves...

tacks in Europe. Then there is Mohsin Omar Ibrahim, alias «Anass Khalil», arrested in December 2018 in Bari while he was planning to blow up churches during the Christmas period. Then, on August 13th 2018, Tunisian authorities detained a group of 9 jihadists who were boarding a dinghy together with about ten other immigrants, all headed towards the Sicilian coast. Two months later, a 25-year-old Tunisian, who arrived in Lampedusa in July and was a guest at a hotspot, was recognized by one of his compatriots who indicated him to the authorities as a former ISIS fighter in cells or individuals are in "sleeping mode". Furthermore, it is not just a problem of illegal immigration. As a matter of fact, the issue of Islamist extremism and terrorism is much bigger throughout Europe. In the last three weekends, during street demonstrations in support of Gaza, we have seen alarming signs that go far beyond peaceful support for a cause and digress into full-blown extremism and display of hatred towards the West.

Those were in great part British or European citizens, many of whom of



Asian or Arab origins. We have seen cases in Germany, Italy, France, but most of all, in London, a city that seems to be at the mercy of Islamists. Jihadist banners, genocidal chants, threats against the West, attacks against symbols of Armistice Day by Islamist demonstrators, and the Westminster Parliament under siege by those demonstrators trying to condition the vote on ceasefire. This is the result of the multiculturalist model that some political sectors promoted for years as an ideal path to follow, to copy. If you visit certain parts of London, it's like being in Afghanistan or Pakistan. This is not multiculturalism, this is not integration, this is just a way to create isolation, parallel societies, ghettos, and a hotbed for extremist ideology. And now, the MET police are under attack by part of the political establishment and public opinion for being unable to contrast this phenomenon, which is very deeply rooted.

As to Italy, since this is where we are at the moment, at the beginning of November in the city of Alessandria, 23-year-old Moroccan citizen Enhamel el Mehdi vandalized two churches to "avenge Palestinian deaths". Because according to the Islamist

ideology, the whole West is a target. Here, preachers and imams have no hesitation in attacking the Italian government from the pulpit of a mosque for siding with Israel on the October 7th massacre or defining Hamas' crimes against civilian targets as "self-defense" while being interviewed on State TV. Tablighi preachers have no hesitation in calling for the conquest of Rome and showing their disdain and revulsion for the hosting society, while being interviewed on TV. One of these individuals, who is based here in Rome, and who recently said that Islam will dominate the West, also claimed that

Photo: Garry Knight CC BY 2.0 DEED



London, Trafalgar Square on the day of Ashura 2021

"a woman is like a banana, if you peel it, it rotten, so it must stay covered". This is the level we reached by letting everyone in.

We also had plenty of terror-related arrests, for instance: in June 2022, 14 Pakistani citizens belonging to a transnational Barelvi terror network operating between Italy, France and Spain were detained. Among them, Zaheer Hassan Mahmoud, the individual who, on September 25th 2020, attacked the former Charlie Hebdo

HQ, injuring two people with a machete. The point of reference of the Italian cell turned out to be 24-yearold Yaseen Tahir, already arrested in February 2021 by the French authorities at the Parisian station of Saint Lazare because he was found in possession of a machete similar to the one used by Mahmood in the attack. In April 2021 Tahir was released and sent back to Italy, since he was a resident of the city of Chiavari; at this point the individual moved to Fabbrico, in the province of Reggio Emilia, where he organized meetings with other members of the

gram platforms in which he instigated terrorist actions and acts of intolerance towards other communities; he defined himself on his accounts as «warrior / soldier of God» and «lover of Al Qaeda» and expressed his willingness to fight and martyrdom. Sesto S. G. arrests

And again, in mid-October 2023, the police in Milan arrested Egyptian citizens Rafaei Alaa (43) and Nosair Gharib Hassan Nosair Mohamed (49) on charges of international terrorism. According to investigations by the prosecutor's office and Di-

What will happen if we continue to fail to take measures to stop the flow of illegal immigrants, to apply filters to those who come to live here, to act on those who preach extremism and hatred toward our society?

group coming from both Italy and France and took action to find weapons, hideouts and to recruit volunteers («at least ten per city», as emerged in the interceptions). Faysal Rahman - Genoa and again on November 3rd 2023, the police in Genoa arrested 22-year-old Bangladeshi citizen Faysal Rahman, accused of being part of a terrorist association linked to «Al Qaeda». During the investigation, which started in 2021, State Police investigators verified how the individual was very active on social media where, over time, he carried out proselytizing activity and self-training.

Thanks to telephone and electronic interception activity, the monitoring of the suspect's social profiles, together with a search on open sources, multiple videos and messages praising Jihad, published by the detained individual were retrieved. In particular, the man was found to support a Pakistani terrorist organization called Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) associated with Al Qaeda. The suspect spread messages via the internet, Facebook and Instagram as well as through WhatsApp and Telegos of Milan, the two demonstrated «activism» by participating in the «propaganda machine of the Islamic State. Alaa was also trying to indoctrinate his son, who is still a minor. The chief of Digos-Police in Milan was very clear by explaining that the fact that the two individuals had never planned attacks does not diminish their danger, because the most active ones rarely carry out attacks, but they encourage, they incite the unknown individuals, the sleeper cells, to take action.

This is the current situation and, unless serious steps are taken to contrast this very complex phenomenon, we will be facing more violence. The fact that we are now in this situation is due to the lack of appropriate preventive measures taken years back, when the issue was already visible. Now, ask yourself what will happen if we keep on avoiding taking the necessary steps to stop the illegal flow from coming in, to apply the necessary filters for those who are going to live here, to act promptly on those who preach extremist propaganda and call for non-integration and hatred towards our society.

Political correctness is now the sole ideology of many European governments and of the EU itself. And it prevents calling a spade a spade and facing reality: immigration is a threat to the very existence of the peoples of Europe

by Patrik Török



Patrik Török, Policy Advisor to the Foundation for a Civic Hungary -Brussels office, Hungary

Immigration: EU'S MUZZLE ON THE TRUTH

ight years have passed since 2015 and we are still facing the very same issue: the impact of illegal migration, the power of human traffickers, the negative consequences of parallel societies and the hypocritical attitude of the European elites. Almost nothing has changed in their heads regarding the fatal consequences of uncontrolled migratory movements. The messages are the same, the stand still is also almost the same as eight years ago.

> Regarding migration, I have to repeat the conclusion that Viktor Orbán has been right, right from the beginning, namely that migration would lead to crime, terrorism, unmanageable political tensions and huge spending. He was the first prime minister back then who drew, or at least, tried to draw Europe's attention to the possible dangers of mass migration. I can remember the mass hysteria that we could witness back then when my prime minister made these statements. I can also witness the mass hysteria in Europe, when we announced to build a fence. We were called "inhuman" and "xenophobic", undermining the European unity. After so many years, we can conclude that it was not Viktor Orbán who undermined the European unity by defending Europe's Schengen borders, but those European elites who completely lost control over the migratory movements in 2015 which led to several governments to fall and to one of the biggest disputes within the EU. And yet, after so many terrorist attacks, after all those years, there are still European leaders who claim that the influx of illegal migrants did not significantly increase the crime rates.

But let us quickly look at the facts regarding the link between migration and terrorism: regarding terrorist attacks and terrorism-related arrests in the EU, we can see a clear gap between Western Europe and Eastern Europe: in 2021, France showed 140 terrorism-related arrests, Belgium 32, Germany 34, Austria 21, Spain 47 while in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary altogether showed 3 terrorism-related arrests. Altogether,

between 2010 and 2021, 4.466 religiously inspired attacks happened in the European Union. Interestingly the number of such attacks has doubled between 2014 and 2015. Especially in the German media, the left is saying that the right-wing motivated violence poses a bigger threat, but the numbers show the contrary: between 2010 and 2021, 258 right wing motivated arrests happened in the European

There are still European political leaders who deny the link between immigration and criminality

Union, 17 times less than religiously inspired attacks. And while of course, all sort of violence has to be condemned, we have to see the cristal clear gap between these two figures. In Austria, the proportion of foreigners On this and the other page: pictures of the border barrier erected by the Orbán government in 2014-2015

hoto: Bőr Benedek CC BY 2.0

among suspects, convicted offenders and newly imprisoned persons in Austria was 58,1% in 2022. Even Emmanuel Macron stated in 2022 "when we look at crime in Paris today, we can't fail to see that at least half the delinquency comes from people who are foreigners".

If we take a look regarding antisemitism in Europe, we can also clearly see a gap between the Eastern and seven incidents per day on average and in France, since October 7 2023, more than 1000 antisemitic cases have been registered, while in Eastern Europe, we rarely hear about such atrocities.

There is also fear of mentioning the word "population exchange" regarding migration. Let the facts speak again here: 44,4% of the Viennese population are of foreign origin, in

Western Europe has a hundred times more arrests for terrorism among immigrants than the Visegrad countries. Between 2010 and '21, there were 4,466 attacks of religious inspiration in the EU, twice as many as in 2014-15

Western part of Europe: a group tracking antisemitism in Germany said that it documented 2,480 incidents in the country in 2022—just under the Brussels-Capital Region, almost one in three inhabitants is not Belgian. The proportion of foreigners in Berlin was 23.9 per cent, in the The left talks about a «right-wing» political crime danger, but cases are 17 times less than religiously motivated ones

first 20 years

of the 21st century, the number of foreign citizens in Sweden almost doubled. Sweden, which is among the top destinations among migrants, Ever since the collation of crime statistics was initiated by the Council of Europe, Sweden has had the highest number of registered rape offences in Europe by a considerable extent. And this will worsen year by year if we look at the migratory situation at the borders of Southern Europe.

As the Hungarian prime minister once said: Once you let the migrants in, they do not leave. Why?



Because their deportation back to their homeland is very complicated and extremely slow. Let me tell you an example: in Germany, in 2022, around 13.000 people have been sent back to their homeland while 244.132 people applied for asylum. In 2022, through Switzerland alone 10.473 people entered Germany illegally. As you can see from the numbers, the gap between those seeking asylum / migrating into Germany and those being sent back is far too big, and it gets worse every year.

And dear friends, one big obstacle, which is hindering Europe from effectively handling the migration issue, is the fear of naming the problem what it is. We are easily and quickly put into the "far right" corner solely by mentioning the abovementioned, official statistics. Freedom of expression is not what it was in the past and the peoples of Europe feel this. According to a survey, conducted by the German MDR in 2022, which was asking 27.000 people, 78% stated that concerning "specific topics," they have to be extremely careful how they in danger. This is based on a survey conducted by IFOP in 2023.

How could we effectively handle a situation, if we cannot talk about it freely without any tabus? We need an open dialogue regarding these issues and not a muzzle. In Europe we also need the respect for antimigratory standpoints. As Viktor Orbán already said in 2015: we do not need "moral imperialism". If a country decides, it wants to let in migrants, so be it. But if another country, in this case for example Hungary, choses another way, then this way has to be respected and to-lerated.

We don't want to tell people what's good for them, but others also should not want to tell us how to live our lives either. They should tolerate that this is another country that doesn't want mini-Gaza's, terror, gang wars like we see in Western Europe. The European elites, members of the radical left movements however, do not care about the basic needs of the peoples of Europe. They are merely driven by their ideological fanatism, which will get irreversible if not stopped in time. The biggest stakes in the months ahead will be whether we can make changes in Brussels, in next year's elections, to stop this coercive EU position. We can only

Citing immigration data leads to being branded as "right-wing extremists." 50% of Austrians and 64% of French fear for their freedom of expression, and 78% of Germans say they should "be careful" about how they express themselves

express themselves. and 59% of those asked said that the freedom of expression is in a bad condition in Germany. In 2021, a survey in Austria concluded, that around 50% is doubting whether the freedom of expression is absolutely guaranteed in the country. In France, 64% of the French thought that the freedom of expression is particularly fight the left forces in Europe, if the right-wing conservative parties across this continent find the common denominator. We need more right-wing governments in Europe. Let us work together for a better Europe, for a Europe of Nations, for a Europe that does not give us a muzzle, but long-term, efficient solutions for our challenges.

ILLEGALS & CRIME: THE PROBLEM OF Z V 0 G T 0 O N

by Lorenzo Bernasconi

Evicting criminal immigrants is often made difficult by the uncooperativeness of the countries of origin. New policies are needed, renouncing neocolonialism and paternalism

> uropean newspapers are full of articles on immigration, and yet the issue is systematically framed within a story-telling that appeals to our more emotional side and is practically never approached from a rational, scientific perspective. This, in the writer's mitake we cannot afford. Mass immigra-

opinion, is a mistake we cannot afford. Mass immigration represents a momentous challenge, and we have no chance of governing such a vast phenomenon, which is changing the face of our continent at an unpreceden-



Lorenzo Bernasconi (Centro Studi Machiavelli, Italy). Above: drug dealers in broad daylight in London's Holloway area



ted speed, without resorting to the tools offered by reason and scientific knowledge.

Among the many weaknesses of the Union's migration policies, the difficult relations with the countries of origin of migratory flows are the most painful note. These, in fact, heavily impact two crucial aspects of policies to combat irregular migration: namely, the ex ante one of prevention and deterrence and the ex post one of expulsion of irregular migrants. Dwelling for a moment on this second aspect: it is well known how the embassies and consulates of many African and Asian countries systematically ignore requests to formally identify and provide temporary passports to their sanspapiers, who entered Europe illegally and were detained by our public security authorities. This lack of cooperation on the part of diplomatic representations, although unknown to the general public, is at the root of the substantial impossibility of proceeding with the forced deportation of irregulars.

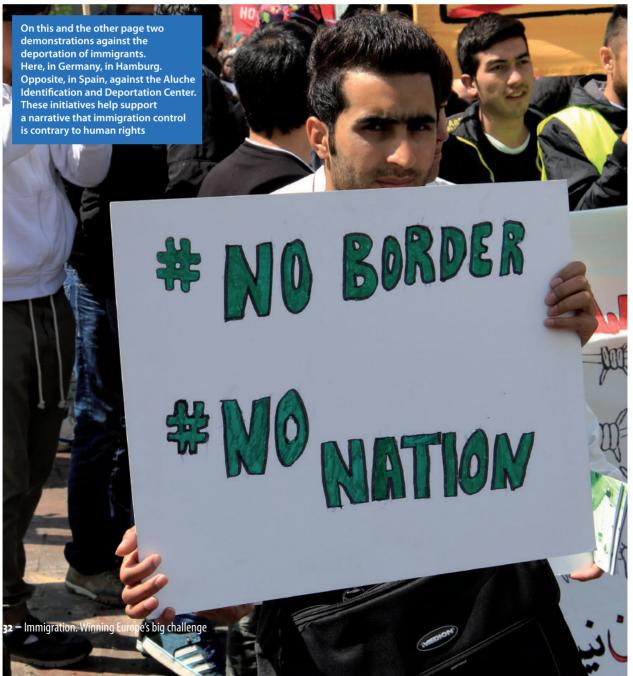
In fact, in the absence of a travel document issued by the state of origin, the foreigner subject to the deportation order would not be accepted aboard any vessel or aircraft engaged in commercial service. Nor, on the other hand, would it be possible to carry out forced repatriation by European citizens exasperated by a situation that is getting worse by the day. As soon as a European military aircraft were to enter the airspace of a third country without authorization, it would in fact, under

In Italy, only two representations from African states appear to consistently respond to requests to identify their nationals arrested by Italian police forces for crimes committed on our national territory

military flights without the prior consent of the country of destination, as is often called for on social media and in the public squares by international law, commit a hostile act against that country, triggering a predictable - and formally legitimate - military reaction. This means that, paradoxically, even the irregular migrant who has committed very serious crimes such as rape or murder, once he or she has served the relevant sentence, will be made the subject of an expulsion order destined in most cases to remain a dead letter, so that he or she will continue to remain illegally on European soil, with the consequences we can all imagine.

If we look at the numbers, we will easily understand that the problem of the non-cooperation of the representations of the countries of origin of the flows is far from marginal. Consider that, in the case of Italy, compared to the more than 132,000 irregular immigrants who landed





during the current year, only two representations of African states turn out to consistently respond to requests to identify their nationals arrested by Italian police forces for crimes committed on our national territory. The fact, then, that more than 24 percent of the prison population in Italy is represented by non-EU nationals, who, even by the most generous estimates, make up less than 7 percent of the population residing on the national territory, can give an idea, albeit a cursory one, of how much the propensity to crime and recidivism among irregular immigrants represents a challenge before which we have yet to find truly effective counter and prevention strategies. At the same time, this

figure reminds us of the urgency of implementing truly effective forced deportation systems, both with a view to ensuring social peace and security in our cities and to avoid further overburdening European prison systems, which, moreover, seem totally incapable of being a deterrent in the eyes of people raised in a totally different culture, where violence - acted and suffered - often plays a preponderant role, and therefore much more accustomed than native Europeans to enduring the psychologically afflictive conditions typical of detention. While the critical issues associated with illegal migration flows thus appear difficult to deny, it may not seem obvious that it is actually possible to intervene

Photo: gaelx from Madrid / A Coruña CC BY SA 2.0

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effectively to stem the phenomenon. Indeed, the mainstream press not infrequently promotes the idea of the substantial futility of any attempt to stem migration flows, essentially portraying mass irregular migration as ungovernable and uncontrollable historical phenomena to which European citizens should simply resign themselves.

This idea, however, is belied by the facts. In 2018, when Italy had, for the first time, a sovereignist-driven government that made countering illegal immigration one of its political priorities, the numbers of irregular migrants contracted dramatically: from 119,370 arrivals the previous year, they dropped to 23,370 and then fell further to 11,471 in 2019. As soon as the government fell and was replaced by a center-left executive, however, the numbers rose again: over 43,000 in 2021, nearly 70,000 in 2022 until the annus horribilis 2023. Although international conjunctures have certainly played a role, the reduction in migratory flows to Italy found during the brief interlude of the first Conte government shows how a rigorous migration policy, albeit one that fully respects human rights and international treaties, is indeed able to reduce irregular entries substantially, while also going so far as to limit the criminal activities of the various mafias that have made a profitable business out of migrant trafficking. The key to the success of

Every people have the right to live in their own country according to their own customs and traditions. We Europeans have no obligation to change our lifestyles to make room for others



the stra-

tegy adopted by Italy at that time, and, in parallel, the reason for the generalized failure of the European approach to negotiating with countries of origin, lies, to a large extent, in two totally different ways of dealing with the governments of those countries.

The European approach is probably flawed by a deviously neocolonialist mentality; although generous in lavishing contributions and subsidies, in fact, the Union seems incapable of really listening to developing countries, and in particular African countries. Brussels stubbornly persists in descending from above on African nations an agenda and a development model that are incompatible with the history, culture and society of those peoples. The insistence on a model of democracy that perfectly replicates those of Europe, or on the so-called «civil rights» of real or alleged rainbow minorities, besides denoting a profound ignorance about the arrangements and dynamics of African societies, represents, in the eyes of those born south of the Mediterranean, nothing more than yet another disguise of the old colonial mentality, that is, a new attempt to forcibly «uncivilize» and make like

countries of the globe envy our level of prosperity and would like to achieve it. But becoming as rich as we are is quite another thing from becoming like us. If we are talking about values, lifestyles and forms of government, we need to come down from that pedestal that the progressive intelligentsia likes so much and understand that every people has the right to live in their own country according to their own customs and traditions. We need to reiterate that we Europeans have no obligation to change our lifestyles to please those who come to live on our continent, but at the same time we need to recognize that we have neither the right nor the duty to impose our idea of civilization on African peoples or to interfere unduly with their destiny. Precisely through this paradigm shift, that is, by moving away from the perspective of an implicitly asymmetri-

cal relationship between civilizing countries and countries to be civilized, and instead embracing a logic of partnership and mutual listening, Italy in 2018 managed to open interesting glimmers of dialogue with the countries of origin of the flows. By listening to the authorities of those countries, engaging in dialogue with ambassadors and government members, asking them what they needed instead of coming up with pre-packaged proposals, it was possible to find an opportunity to create unhoped-for synergies. From visa facilitation for language teachers to improved police cooperation with a view to combating organized crime, to the provision of materials and equipment that are now obsolete for our public administrations but may still have a long operational life ahead of them in Africa, there are a great many fronts on which, even with a modest use of resources, something

The future of Africa, whether it is a future of misery or wealth, must be forged by Africans and we do not have the right, the duty or the power to decide for them

us peoples who are instead different, and who want to maintain this diversity of theirs, of which they are legitimately proud. We must rid ourselves once and for all of this insane prejudice that the whole world aspires to become like us, to become European; certainly, the poorest

Berlin, Charlottenburg: a German Federal Police information point shows weapons seized from violent criminals. In 2022 in Berlin 3,300 stabbings were recorded, largely attributable to young male immigrants of Islamic religion can be offered to African partners that they really feel they need.

It is appropriate to recall here a slogan launched a few years ago by Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo: «Africa beyond aid,» designed to underscore the need for African countries to find their own path to development that is independent of aid from the so-called international community. The way forward is exactly this: to get out of the perverse spiral of international aid that does not generate development and, if anything, encourages corruption, cronyism, chronic dependency and economic immobility, and instead to enter into a logic of partnership that implies and demands respect and seriousness on both sides, in a frank and non-discounting dialogue of equals. The European Union should have the humility to listen, letting African leaders define and



Photo: Matthias Berg CC BY NC SA 2.0 DEED

outline the most appropriate economic and social development models for their own countries, rather than expecting them to conform uncritically to a vision of progress constructed at the table by a Western ruling class that understands little or nothing about Africa.

We reiterate the need for dialogue with all African governments, no matter whether they are more or less democratic or more or less close to our standards: dear European brothers and sisters, getting out of the colonialist mindset means accepting that it is not up to us to judge the form of government that other peoples decide to give themselves. In our long and troubled history, we have always rejected foreign influences in our internal affairs and driven invaders out of our borders, as at Lepanto in 1571 or Vienna in 1683. If this was and remains legitimate for us, we must lia concrete, tangible, immediate and constant commitment on the part of local governments to halt departures and facilitate repatriations.

In exchange for the generous free trade agreements offered by the Union, instead of continuing to demand reforms in civil rights or state structure-in open violation of the natural right to self-determination of peoples-we must begin by asking African governments to take charge of their fellow citizens, just as European governments do with their own. That is, starting by actually respecting - and not just paying lip service to - the sovereignty of African states, while at the same time demanding that they recognize ours and stop using migration as an outlet for the failures of their economic policies. In human history, indiscriminate welcome has never been a duty, and it became so only in the last

European governments must respect the sovereignty of African states while demanding that they cooperate and stop using migration as an escape valve for their policies' failures

kewise recognize the same right for the peoples of Africa and Asia. At the same time, we must take note that no moral principle and no form of collective responsibility oblige us to take on the problems of those peoples. Leaving them free to self-determine means also recognizing that theyand they alone-are responsible for their own destiny: it is not our duty to protect them from the consequences of their choices or to take responsibility for their possible mistakes, just as no one else in history has ever taken responsibility for ours. Africa's future, whether it is one of misery or wealth, must be forged by Africans, and we have neither the right, the duty, nor the power to decide for them. For this, the EU should have the courage to tie the granting of any form of economic aid or trade agreement to the countries of origin of the flows to

century, thanks to treaties written by a few jurists whose knowledge of the world evidently did not extend much beyond the boundaries of his neighborhood. On the contrary, territoriality-understood both as a tendency to protect one's own territory and as a cognition that the other has a natural right to defend his or her own as well-is inscribed in our DNA and is a constant throughout human history. If we Europeans have chosen for centuries now to delegate this task of defense to the state, then it, and those who represent it, have a sacred duty to secure our borders, by all appropriate means and instruments. Even, where necessary, in spite of some wretched international treaty, since, as Cicero wrote in «De Legibus,» «salus populi suprema lex esto»: there is no law worth more than the salvation of the nation.



THE SECOND STREET STREE

by Jacek Wilk

Immigration brings benefits only in the short term and only to speculation on workers' wages. In the medium term there is only harm to the nations colonized by immigrants



Jacek Wilk, president of the Adam Smith Foundation (Poland). Large photo shows the Champs Elysees in Paris in the present days

f one assumes that the only value in life is economic growth, this would probably - in the short period - be a reasonable argument for mass immigration.

However, when we analyze the issue from a long-term perspective, even with this assumption, the phenomenon of mass immigration will have concrete material costs. In itself, mass immigration limits wage growth, as well as technological development. Why would an entrepreneur invest - because of the need for labor hands - when the progressive left come with the idea of opening the borders wide open. Cheap labor is like a drug for big companies. It's addictive, gives temporary relaxation, but harms in the long-term. And they never want to stop on their own.

We, unlike the progressive left, look at man, nation and state realistically, taking into account the totality of the complex interrelationships in which they function. Community identity, public safety, health, public trust, religion - these are real phenomena that cannot be ignored. For the progressive left, it is the individual who is the sole subject of politics, and only the individual is to be served by politics, or rather the disappearance of politics in favor of the laws of the market. For us, the primary subject is the nation, whose interests we seek to define and pursue. At the same time, we understand that within the nation function individuals, families and other communities, from parents of children from the same school to employees of the same company. A people abstracted from communities exists only on paper, it is a mirage.

In Poland, fortunately, there are not yet so many minorities that they have a significant impact on elections, but this is something that should still be warned against. For it is not true that low-skilled immigrants have more conservative views. This is a false argument, because immigrants - as a rule - support and vote for parties from the center to the left. We can observe such a phenomenon in Western European countries and in the United States. Latinos from conservative, Catholic countries in the US are uprooting themselves en masse, abandoning Catholicism and voting for the left. We realize that the same will also happen in Poland if it becomes a multinational country. It is not without reason that at the socalled Women's Strikes one could often hear Belarusian, Russian or Ukrainian. For example, in the 2013 German Bundestag elections, the leftist SPD party got a total of 25.75%



By 2011, 1.4% of citizens in Sweden had experienced sexual violence. By 2018, the percentage had risen to 6 percent. 59.3% of perpetrators were immigrants or children of immigrants. 47.8% of rapists were born outside Sweden.

and 62.2% of the Turkish community in Germany voted for this party. This huge difference in the vote is for the same reason that other minorities also vote for the left, which offers their group specific benefits. These are not just economic privileges, but also the ability to allow immigrants into the country without limit. Such demands consolidate minorities who cooperate with each other within leftist groups.

In contrast, Polish left-wing parties are trying very hard to win over minorities , but they are not interested in, for example, the problem of Poles in Lithuania. The reason is simple: Because Poles in Lithuania are not capable of becoming a revolutionary subject willing to implement the demands of the left. Poles in Lithuania are consistently right-wing. Privately, they are conservative and vote mainly for conservative parties. Why? Because they are also not an immigrant population and are rooted in the territory that is currently under the rule of the Republic of Lithuania. They are not attractive to the Left, so the Left does not fight for their rights. In the same way, big business in Poland is not interested in bringing in repatriates from Kazakhstan, for example.

The problem with immigration is also the dangers posed by mutually exclusive national identities. The English have experienced, for example, planned Indian immigration, which has contributed to years of riots, murders, brawls and so on. At the moment, entire suburbs are overrun only by people of Indian origin, destroying the traditional character of London. Many of the newcomers live outside society because they have their own ghettos (such as Southall). They alienate themselves because they are comfortable living in their community. But is the goal of immigration to create a world in a nutshell, where everyone sits in their ghetto?

In the context of mass immigration, we can't escape the problem of rapidly rising crime. Researchers at Lund University have checked the backgrounds of rape perpetrators in Sweden. A clear majority of them are committed by immigrants. The researchers checked information on 3039 people convicted of rape. They found that most of them - 59.3% were immigrants or children of immigrants. 47.8% of the rapists were born outside Sweden. Of that number, 34.5% came to the country from North Africa or the Middle East and 19.1% from sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the Swedish Crime Prevention Council, only 1.4% of Swedish citizens were victims of sexual violence in 2011. In 2014, the number of victims was already 2%, and by 2018 it had tripled to about 6% of the



population. Meanwhile, more than 115,000 immigrants came to Sweden in 2013. As many as 482,000 Swedes - mostly women - were victims of

sexual violence in 2018. One in ten women experienced such violence. In 2020, the number of rapes of minors increased significantly, by 16% compared to the previous year. Currently,

one in four people in Sweden is either an immigrant or descendant of immigrants. Research was also done by employees at Malmo University. They checked how it looks in their city. It came out that between 2013 and 2018, as many as 71% of those convicted of rape had an immigrant background, i.e. both parents of non-European descent.

Immigration is an ideal opportunity for foreign intelligence. In Poland, for example, it is now quite clear that among the millions of newcomers from across the eastern border came to us, among others, Russian and Belarusian agents who were easy to camouflage. Mass immigra-

tion helps move

criminal groups

to a new market.

It is worth noting

how the criminal

activities of mino-

rities from across

the eastern bor-

der, who were at-

tracted to Poland

by the Law and

Any immigration brings with it harm. Only an extreme materialist can ignore its disadvantages for society

Justice government - which officially defends the Polish national interest - developed in Poland.

The media is definitely more publicized conflicts between different ethnic groups. As soon as a Pole inflicts a crime on another Pole, the media are not interested in it. However, when the crime is multiethnic, it is suddenly attractive to the media. The media immediately create two sides of a nationality dispute, which leads to the antagonization of society - something that the progressive Left, for example, cares about, and immediately takes the side of the «discriminated minority».

Another example of the ill effects of mass immigration are Pakistanis and Indians, who take their national conflicts to other countries, such as Britain. Anti-conflict teams are not working, with no full-time staff to resolve complex disputes. Expenses are rising for interpreters, who must provide equal rights in court for people who cannot or will not agree to testify in their own language.

Immigrants - as we are now seeing in Poland as well - find it easier to escape justice. For example, every year in Poland the number of crimes that end in impunity increases, as, for example, a car thief disappears across the eastern border. The same applies to other crimes. Issuing a permit to anyone without a thorough background check can lead to just such problems. This is because more often than not, the criminal background of immigration is not checked thoroughly enough. There are also many other problems associated with mass immigration, including lesser-known ones. For example - for many years now, Asians in the West have been practicing identity theft as a basis for drawing their relatives and friends to European countries. In France, this practice was what a common occurrence. When someone died from a Chinese community, someone completely different was brought in on their papers, and the corpse was made disappeared.

In conclusion, any immigration brings harm, and even more so uncontrolled immigration. It is irrelevant whether there will be social welfare in the state or not - shoddiness will arise anyway. Only an extreme materialist who thinks «here and now» sees only the pluses of massive immigration. People who think about the community, about its future and about its prosperity, do not look so favorably on the mass influx of strangers to the homeland.

DEM

BLIND SPOTS ON INNIGRATION

by Gunnar Beck

In the folds of European law lie the flaws that allow immigration to run rampant. To stop it, national Law must prevail over EU Law

«Democracy, where are you?» A Paris monument vandalized during a pro-immigration rally. The arguments used tend to mystify the meaning of democracy, rule of law, human rights

<image>

Gunnar Beck, MEP for Alternative für Deutschland and vice-chairman of the Identity and Democracy Group (Germany) have been asked to focus on two legal issues relevant to limiting migration:
1. To limit migration, national law must take precedence over European
Union law; and

2. The EU must stop its witch-hunt policy against countries that do not respect the «rule of law».

I. The Primacy of EU over national law

To address the first point, we must briefly assess the relevant legal framework in international and EU law. First, international law. Contrary to a common misconception, the Geneva Refugee Convention of 1951 does not establish a right to asylum under international law, but primarily governs the rights of refugees once a state has decided to accept asylum seekers.

Art. 31 of the Convention states that signatory states «shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened in the sense of article 1, enter or are present in their territory without authorization...». This provision does not, however, grant a right to illegal entry, nor does it establish a legal duty on signatory states to allow anyone to enter their country illegally, even if they come directly from an unsafe country.

This means that pushbacks at the EU's external frontier are perfectly legal, both at the land and the EU sea border. The construction of fences or a wall is likewise not incompatible with the Convention. Australia's policy of not allowing migrants to go ashore along the Australian north coast is therefore entirely compatible with international law.

Even Art. 33 of the Convention which contains to right to nonrefoulement does not prevent pushbacks. However, Art. 33 prevents signatory states «from expelling or returning a refugee to an unsafe country, if his life or liberty are in danger there».Border control is therefore vital to controlling miderable protection against expulsion and repatriation. Second, EU law: broadly speaking, the EU Dublin III Regulation revolves around

The European Court of Justice has twisted the EU Return Directive into a guarantee of free movement for illegal immigrants. A clear violation that disregards clear existing legal provisions

gration: because, although there is no obligation to allows a migrant to enter illegally or otherwise, it is very difficult to return once they have entered the country. The Convention does not establish a right to asylum, but it does provides consithe Refugee Convention of 1951, although EU law is more permissive in a number of ways, at least one of which is crucial:

1. The Qualification Directive extends international protection from asylum to subsidiary protection for war refugees.

2. Dublin III mirrors the Refugee Convention of 1951 insofar as the EU Member State which a migrant initially enters, is generally responsible for the asylum application. However, there are exceptions for minors and other migrants with family in other Member States.

3. Any state may voluntarily agree to accept responsibility for as many illegal entrants as it likes under Art. 17 Dublin III although another state may normally be responsible under the Regulation. This voluntary assumption, or we may call it insanity provision, has only been invoked once, by Merkel in 2015.

McDonald's

The «right of movement» within the territory of the European Union is interpreted extensively by the European Court of Justice and the mainstream narrative

> **TOUTE PERSONNE A LE DROIT DE CIRCU ET DE CHOISIR SA RÉSIDENCE À L'INTER TOUTE PERSONNE A LE DROIT DE QUITI TOUTE PERSONNE A LE DROIT DE QUITI Y COMPRIS LE SIEN, ET DE REVENIR DAN**

BAIN

4. The Dublin III system cannot be regarded separately from the Schengen system, which has abolished internal EU border controls subject only to emergency exceptions. The interplay of both systems means that once a migrant illegally enters an EU Member State and that Member State has registered his asylum application, that a migrant de facto enjoys free movement within the EU and acquires that right at the latest when his application is granted.

That means Poland, and I am afraid also Italy, have no disincentive to allow migrants to enter unlawfully. Moreover, illegal migrants commonly simply travel on even before their claims are registered because there are no border con-



ULER LIBREMENT RIEUR D'UN ÉTAT. TER TOUT PAYS, NS SON PAYS.

Photo: Jeanne Menjoulet CC BY 2.0 DEED

trols within the Schengen area. In these circumstances the ECJ recently ruled that members states may not simply return illegal migrants to the Member State which is responsible for their application. The ECJ in this way effectively transformed the EU Return Directive into a free movement guarantee for illegal migrants. The ECJ decision is a clear breach of the wording of Art. 2 para 2 of the Returns Directive which states Member States may return third country nationals at their external frontier. The ECJ simply interpreted the reference to the national external frontier as the EU external frontier.

This ECJ's approach which disregards clear legal provisions illustraPersonally, I would even go further and advocate the complete repatriation of asylum policy, because this alone can guarantee that more permissive Member States cannot socialise the costs of their own misunderstand humanitarian irresponsibility.

II. Rule of Law Mechanism

Let me conclude with a few words about the rule of law mechanism which allows the EU to blackmail and beat into submission countries that do not go along with ever closer union or the political correctness policy agenda. The mechanism for this is the reference in Art. 7 TEU to the so-called European values in Art. 2 TEU which include all hu-

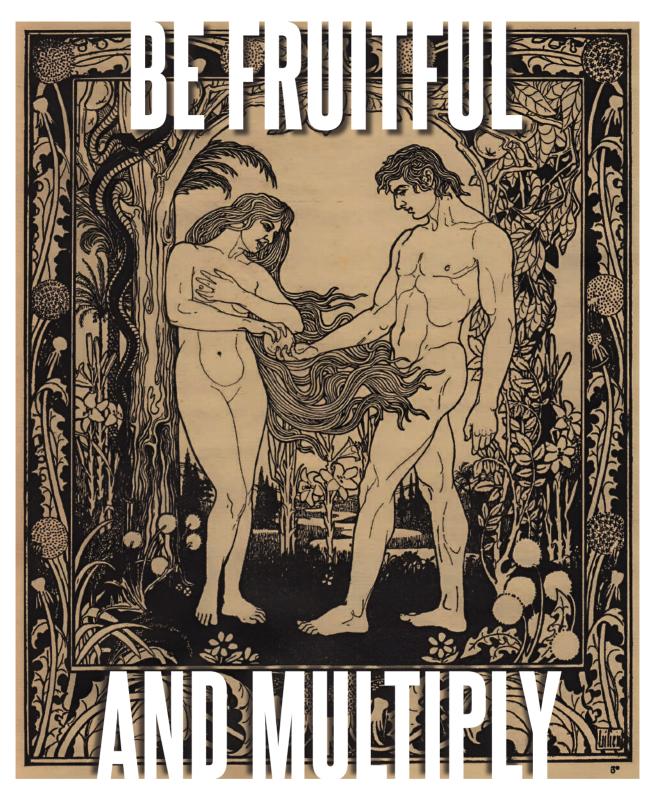
Even when EU law protects vital national interests, the European Court of Justice sets aside that protection to favor a more tolerant migration policy. We must therefore limit the primacy of EU law

tes why the primacy of EU over national law prevents Member States from controlling migration. Even where EU law protects vital national interest, the ECJ sets aside that protection to favour a more liberal migration policy. We must therefore limit the primacy of EU law and exclude at least migration.

Moreover, I recommend that the free movement of migrants be restricted to the Member State which accepted them. If they move to another Member State, that Member State should be granted the right to evict them immediately. This restriction is the only way in which Schengen can reasonably coexist with the Dublin III regime. This would go some way to restoring the principle of national responsibility which alone would ensure Member States everywhere have an incentive to stop illegal migration. Where Member States lack the funds, the EU should assist them.

man rights, the rights of minorities (which the ECJ has interpreted as including the rights of migrants even though they will soon be the majority in many parts of the EU), the non-discrimination principle and equality between man and woman. The ECJ has interpreted all these rights widely and continues expanding them. By withholding funds, recipient countries can then be forced to comply or forced to support new legislaton such as the EU migration pact.

The rule of law mechanism in its current form is unacceptable because it allows the EU to force Member States to approve policies they do not support. My proposal is therefore to amend Art. 7 and restrict the concept of rule of law violations to the proper meaning of the term 'rule of law', namely the obligation to respect the procedural rights of a fair trial and due process under Art. 6 ECHR.



by Daniele Scalea

Welfare and stability are not enough. To start having children again, we need to resume believing that there is a duty to give a future to what has been inherited from the past n 1900, one in four humans was European. Today, despite conspicuous immigration from other continents, less than 10 percent of humans live in Europe. The decline has also affected people of European origin outside the continent. In Africa, despite huge increases in the overall population, Europeans are fewer in absolute numbers than a century ago. In the U.S., the percentage of whites has fallen from 90 percent to 60 percent since 1950, with the last 10 percentage points of decline occurring in the last decade. Everywhere in the world Europeans and their descendants are declining, when not in absolute numbers at least in relation to other ethnic groups.

Italy is a case in point. The population has essentially stagnated since 1975, when it reached 55 million. In the last two decades it has grown slightly, but only because of massive immigration, at first from Eastern European countries and now increasingly from non-European countries. Italy's fertility rate fell below replacement level (2.1 children per woman) in 1976 and is now around 1.2. Although Italy is the tail end in Europe, the situation is

not much better outside our borders. The EU fertility rate is 1.53. The EU country with the highest rate, France, is still a long way from the replacement level, the one that allows a population not to decline: 1.84. We have to be honest with ourselves: no matter how many walls we can erect, no matter how many expulsions and repatriations we can do, there is no hope of avoiding ethnic substitution unless we start having children again. Let's think about the average age. Today Europe is a continent of 45-year-olds facing a continent, Africa, of 20-year-olds. And African 20-year-olds are almost twice as old as European 45-year-olds. Separating us is only a narrow arm of the sea. There is no way to keep Africans out of Europe. Landless peoples will go for land without people, as it has always been in history. Our migration policies can postpone this outcome by 50 years, by 100 years, but they cannot prevent it. That is why population policies are even more important.

The contents of pro-natal policies are well known. The first piece is the measures that serve to give parents the opportunity to care for their children and work at the same time: parental leave, daycare centers, full-time schools, and parttime parenting. These are measures called to remedy the demise of the traditional extended family, the one made up of several related households with female homemakers, which was able to take care of everyone's children. This model has been erased by the diversion of women to outside work, increasing mobility and progressive family atomization, which has broken down into the nuclear family and is now being further degraded to the single-parent family, i.e., the divorced parent.

The second building block is financial aid, such as child allowances. On a structural level, an important contribution can come from redesigning the tax system according to the logic of the family quotient, as was in the electoral program of the current governing majority in Italy and as is already the case in France (not coincidentally the most



Daniele Scalea, President of Machiavelli Center for Political and Strategic Studies (Italy)

fertile country). This is a zero-cost measure, since it merely shifts the burden of taxation from parents with children to those without children. The justification lies in the fact that parents incur expenses for their children that, to the extent that children ensure the continuity and survival of the community, it is only fair that they be «socialized.» According to the Bank of Italy, the cost of raising a child from 0 to 18 years would average 150 thousand euros. Considering that the average net wage is between 1,500 and 1,800 euros per month, for a singleincome family raising two children becomes economically very arduous, if not impossible. Pro-natality policies have led to positive results in many countries. In addition to the French case, think of the results achieved in Hungary by the

Orban government, which has managed to raise the fertility rate markedly, even in the absence of substantial immigration. However, even with respect to these policies I have to express some measure of skepticism when we look at them over the long term. They are able to buffer declining birth rates, but fail to reverse the trend. As mentioned earlier, everywhere in Europe we are far below the replacement rate. The celebrated Scandinavian «welfare states» are not avoiding population decline. In Sweden, if the population has not declined but increased in recent decades, it is only because of the huge influx of immigrants.

Relying on public policy to ensure the birthrate suffers from an underlying conceptual weakness: the idea that the state and bureaucracy can control what is the most natural, biological and animal of human impulses, namely mating and reproduction. The state does not enter the thalamus, it does not fertilize families: if we call bureaucrats in charge of natality we can expect test tubes, wombs for rent, the Brave New World scenario in which all motherhood is artificial and the very word «mother» is blasphemy. I also invite you to reflect on this. The last baby boom occurred in the postwar period, amidst the rubble and uncertainty for the future. Doing it were men who had seen death in the face on the battlefields for years. So much for the «micro-aggressions» and «microtraumas» that we talk about today.

The fertility collapse occurred in the 1980s and 1990s, when prosperity was at its peak and expectations for the future very bright. It was the era of the «end of history,» when people imagined the world with no more wars, no more dictatorships, when everyone thought they could get rich thanks to the stock market and new technologies. What generation was happier and more carefree than that? What about our generation, which often complains about how it is too difficult or dangerous to bring a child into the world? The problems are objectively there, but how many of the previous generations have been able to live, as we have, without the prospect of having to fight at least one war in their lives, without the specters of starvation and epidemic? We are the descendants of people who, centuries ago, set out empty-handed, crossed oceans, and with a horse, cart and rifle went to colonize new continents. We would no longer be able to do that, yet we have their blood. Compared to them, we do not lack comforts, future certainties, social benefits. If anything,

we live in a plastered society with little appetite for risk and in which instincts, «animal spirits,» are sedated. We need to get out of the comfort zone of contemporary politics, the idea that policies,

policies, are enough to solve every problem. The deepest ones cannot be reached by policies. We need to have the courage to get back to the business of worldview. Go back to proposing a model of man and good life. Politics must return to occupy the spaces that belong to it.

The prime suspect for the demographic crisis is the alienating lifestyle to which we have reduced ourselves: sedentary, repetitive, attached to a screen. Urbanization has taken us away from nature, the latest digital revolution is also taking us away from urban spaces to confine us indoors. Urban spaces cease to be a function of humans. Let us think, also given the theme, of children. You don't see them playing in the street, because that is for vehicle traffic. You don't see them playing on sidewalks, because now between roadways and bike lanes there remain small strips necessary for the movement of pedestrians hurrying from one side to the other. You don't see them playing in parks, which are often either dog latrines or impounded by unsavory people. Where are they when they are not enclosed within the four walls, of home or school? Locked up in small enclosures, «play areas» designated for them. Confinement is the hallmark of our age, and it is not surprising to have seen its acme in the lockdown policies during the covid.

The space we live in is less and less functional for our lives, and our lives are increasingly deprived of stimulation other than the artificial stimulation of electronics or drugs. Locked up in captivity, we do what pandas and certain other animal species do: we stop reproducing. A first political imperative: promote a healthier life-

The last baby boom

happened thanks

to a generation that

had seen war.

So much for "micro-

aggressions..."

style, with greater emphasis on physical and outdoor activity (starting with schools), discouraging the use of social networks and pornography by minors. This would have disruptive effects in boosting the vitality of our peoples and,

A second point to focus on is the narrative, the worldview. The «values» of this era are hedonistic individualism (satisfying one's whims as the sole purpose of life) and apocalyptic millenarianism (the end of the world caused by anthropogenic climate change). The two meet precisely in discouraging reproduction: one does not do so in order not to be distracted from oneself, from looking after one's ego, but one can ennoble the choice under the pretext of contributing to the preservation of the planet. This is further reinforced by woke ideology, which demonizes Western civilization. All together, these nefarious doctrines exhort extinction.

consequently, fertility as well.

Another effect of the environmentalist narrative is to create frightened and desperate people. Environmentalism is now the real and true official religion to which our children are constantly catechized from an early age. In schools, in children's TV programs, in songs, everywhere we find environmentalist messages of the apocalyptic kind: «The world is going to end and it's all our fault.» Imagine being bombarded with this message from cradle to adulthood: the record numbers of anxiety and depression found among young people,

and which the mainstream itself boasts of generating under the name of «ecoansia,» are not surprising. We should be teaching children and young people something else. We should teach them the opposite. To be proud of their ancestors, of their heritage, of tradition; to feel the vertical link between generations, the responsibility to ancestors and posterity, the duty to pass on to those to come what was given by those who came. We should teach that instead of hedonistic, solipsistic selfishness there is another, the «sacred selfishness» that makes us want to reproduce and leave a tangible, living legacy on this earth.

Although changing minds may seem a hopeless task, we must not lose heart. Others, conducting a methodical cultural battle, have succeeded in re-educating entire peoples, causing them to lose interest in reproduction, routing them toward a somber and resigned extinction. Our task should be simpler as well, as it is to bring people back to their true nature.

To sum up: policies aimed at decreasing illegal immigration, and I would also say legal immigration, which has huge numbers anyway, are necessary and beneficial to society. However, it will not be possible to prevent ethnic replacement by the most fertile and viable peoples, of Africa and Asia, if Europeans continue to sink into denatality. Governments can and should intervene with natalist policies. However, the scenario is that of a tremendous demographic crisis in a historical phase of relative prosperity and social tranquility. Ensuring yet more welfare and more social tranquility cannot be decisive-it will be helpful, but not decisive. We need to act on people's hearts and minds, awaken their animal spirits - reproductive instinct, propensity to risk, desire to perpetuate themselves - and propose an alternative narrative that focuses on the bond between succeeding generations, the sense of duty to ancestors and posterity, and the feeling of nationhood. Only in this way can we reawaken Europeans from this era of cupio dissolvi and bring them back into history.



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