
Italy

Will Prodi Take 'Left' Road to Disaster?

by Claudio Celani

On May 17, the newly designated Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, swore in his Cabinet ministers and began procedures for a Parliamentary vote, which is scheduled to be over by May 22-23. A lengthy, but normal transition is thus completed. But the new government is born under the worst auspices, those of the infamous "financial markets" and globalization sharks. The key Cabinet post, the Economics Ministry (which has jurisdiction over Treasury, Finance, and Budget), is occupied by Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, a former board member of the European Central Bank. Also, the anti-industrial "Green plague" has made a comeback in the person of the new Environment Minister, Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, who had previously performed that job in the 1996-2001 center-left government.

Looking for positive elements, one must be content with the appointment of outgoing Premier Massimo D'Alema as Foreign Minister, overriding the vetoes raised by the Anti-Defamation League and the neo-con lobby. To find the best personnel, the pro-national fighters, one has to look in the second tier, among deputy ministers and undersecretaries of state. There, we find Mario Lettieri and Alfonso Gianni, who led the Parliament in July 2005 to approve the "New Bretton Woods" resolution promoted by the LaRouche movement. Prodi should have deployed those figures on the front line, if he wanted to avoid the image of a government enslaved to international Synarchist bankers.

Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, the new Economics Minister, is paradigmatic of the problem. As a director of the Bank of Italy, he was a promoter of Alan Greenspan's financial cancer—derivative instruments—as far back as the early '90s. He supports the idea of dissolving the Italian national state into the supranational European Union government, taking as model Tony Blair's advisor Robert Cooper, who pushes the idea that sovereign nation-states are "out," and empires are "in." For instance, in an essay written for the quarterly *Il Mulino*, Padoa Schioppa writes: "The year 1989, in fact, not only ends the Cold War; it also marks the final collapse that the Peace of Westphalia had established in 1648." Then, Padoa Schioppa says: "The post-modern system—Cooper writes—is not based on balance [of powers], nor does it presume sovereignty or separation between domestic and foreign affairs." To build a European government means, "to overcome

the view that the State does not recognize any power above itself; it means to recognize that a supranational power re-establishes sovereignty, rather than suppresses it."

The same day that it was made known that Padoa Schioppa would be named Economics Minister, his new book, *Europe, an Active Patience*, was released. The appendix includes a memorandum Padoa Schioppa co-produced for the Italian Institute for International Affairs, an agency affiliated with the British Royal Institute for International Affairs, which dictates the program for the new government.

The first point of the 15-point memorandum sets the postulate from which all other points derive. It calls for "consolidating Italy's participation in the euro" currency union. It is time to "stop complaining about our membership in the euro or even to [consider] an exit." Instead, Italy should adapt its development model to competition in the single [European market] and in the globalized economy." Other features include: Points 2 ("rigorous implementation of the Stability Pact," i.e., budget cuts); 3 ("completing the single European market in the service and utilities sectors," i.e., full liberalization à la Bolkestein, against which all European labor organizations have recently mobilized); 4 (build a [European] "Union budget," i.e., further reduce the national government's role in the economy), and so on.

Of special relevance are Points 10 and 12. Point 10 calls for "overcoming, at the European level, the current separation between 'defense' and 'security,' and a call for the militarization of society, a de facto coup d'état. Point 12 suggests another coup d'état: In order to overcome national opposition to ratifying a European Charter ("Constitution"), exemplified by the referenda in France and the Netherlands, the paper calls for a "European referendum that involves all member countries," a trick to defeat national opposition by diluting national votes in a general cross-border vote.

Environmentalist Complications

Padoa Schioppa's imperial masters can count on the comeback of the "Partito del No" (Party of the No), as Green anti-industrialism is called in Italy. The leader of the Partito del No, Environment Minister Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, is a bisexual demagogue who has managed, during his first mandate (1996-2001), to successfully block any capital investment in infrastructure. He has already presented a calling card with a big "No" on two key infrastructure projects: the Lyon-Turin High-Speed Railway line (TAV) and the bridge over the Messina Strait. Furthermore, it is to be expected that Pecoraro Scanio will support Jacobin insurgency against urgently needed investments in energy and electricity production. Also, the new Transport Minister, Alessandro Bianchi, has introduced himself as another member of the Partito del No, by leading a campaign against the Messina Bridge.

The new Infrastructure Minister, Antonio Di Pietro, is known for having been a puppet of the plot known as "Clean



European Commission/Berlaymont

The global financier oligarchy has a heavy foot in the door of Prime Minister Romano Prodi's new government.



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Economics Minister Tommaso Padoa Schioppa is a fan of Alan Greenspan's financial derivatives.

Hands," that rocked the political party system in 1992-1994, when he was a state prosecutor in Milan. A man of challenged intellectual powers, Di Pietro will be a vehicle for someone else's policy. Since he owes one of his major constituencies in Calabria to a staunch defender of the Messina Bridge, Aurelio Misiti, who has chaired the Superior Council of Public Works and has now been elected to the Senate, Di Pietro will have a hard time in choosing which way he should go this time. And the Partito del No is partially opposed by the new Industry Minister, Pierluigi Bersani, who has already supported the TAV project.

But this is only one of the numerous conflicts on major issues building into Prodi's rainbow coalition, made out of 12 smaller coalitions (the number of single parties and groupings is even higher). For instance, the new Minister for European Affairs, Emma Bonino, belongs to the Radical Party, which allied with the Democratic Socialists in the "Rosa nel Pugno" (Rose in the Fist) coalition, inside the center-left alliance. Well, the Radical Party is on a 100% neo-con foreign policy line, and bitterly fought the appointment of DS (Left Democrats) chairman Massimo D'Alema as Foreign Minister. Another example: The Partito della Rifondazione Comunista (Refounded Communists), whose Secretary General Fausto Bertinotti has been elected chairman of the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House), is in favor of homosexual marriages, and has provocatively chosen for Parliamentary election, a transsexual named Vladimir Luxuria. But Deputy Prime Minister Francesco Rutelli, sensible of conservative pressures, has vetoed such a proposition, supported by many colleagues in his party (Margherita) and by the new Justice Minister Clemente Mastella, who leads a small Christian Democratic Party called Udeur.

To satisfy all appetites of his allies, Prodi had to increase the number of ministers to 25, inventing some new ones (Family Minister) and adding a few undersecretaries of state as well.

The Soccer Scandal

Indicative of the current state of affairs are decisions taken to deal with a major scandal in the Italian soccer scene. Soccer is the national sport, and has become a business, as several major teams are now quoted on the stock exchange. Indeed, soccer is supposed to play a major role in the *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) scheme of society which Italy, as a "failed nation," should look like, according to the plans of the global oligarchy which has such a heavy foot in the door of the Prodi government.

Since major soccer teams such as Juventus Turin, Lazio, and Rome, entered the stock market, in order to deliver "shareholder value," the management was ordered to produce positive results, which means winning games. Thus, Juventus manager Luciano Moggi set up a criminal scheme to control the whole "Serie A" (Premiere League) championship, bribing referees and "persuading" competitors with mafia-like methods. Prosecutors in Naples discovered the scheme, and issued 41 indictments during the "interregnum" between the outgoing Berlusconi government and the not-yet sworn-in Prodi Cabinet.

The new head of the Italian Soccer Federation (FGCI), Guido Rossi, is indicative of what is behind the story. Rossi has nothing to do with sports, but instead, is a corporate lawyer, former head of the Stock Exchange Control Board (Consob), and recently, a protagonist of major foreign banking takeovers in Italy. Rossi belongs to the same faction of supporters of the "failed states" system as Padoa Schioppa, and has written essays supporting the idea that in the current phase of the "end of history," a new international system of law has to be founded, to replace the outdated system of national sovereignties produced by the Peace of Westphalia. The new system, Rossi insists, must follow the model of the Middle Ages, i.e., instead of jobs, people should be given "bread and entertainment."

This is why the financial interests behind Mr. Rossi are involved in soccer in a major way. Juventus, the top team in Italy and the center of the scandal, has for decades been owned by IFIL, the family holdings of the Agnelli family. Another team, Fiorentina, is owned by Raniero Della Valle, a businessman belonging, like the Agnellis, to the circles which Rossi has worked for, centered around the Assicurazioni Generali-Mediobanca group. A third team involved, Lazio, has already gone through the bankruptcy of its former owner, Cirio. The second-most prestigious team, Milan, is owned by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the richest man in Italy.

Reason tells us that this insane system must be reformed, and that anything involving sports competition should be banned from the stock market.

But the appointment of Rossi as head of FGCI suggests that the hopes of many Italians, who want to see corruption cleaned out of sports, will be unfulfilled, and that instead, their pockets will be cleaned out. In the end, Mr. Prodi will be held responsible for that.