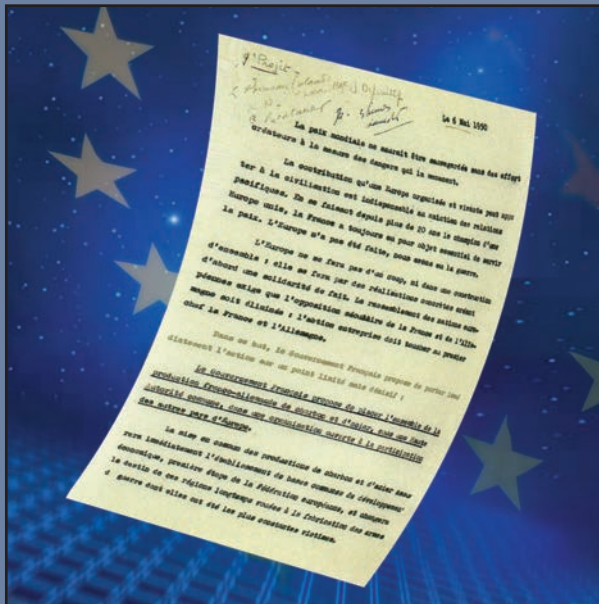


Franz Turchi

LETTERS FROM EUROPE

A future by
our Old Continent



FRANCOANGELI *il punto*

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—— Collana *il punto* ——

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FRANCOANGELI

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Index

Foreword , by <i>Giulio Andreotti</i>	page 11
Introduction	» 13
1999... Why Europe	» 15
1. Euro driving force of Europe, p. 15 – 2. A new policy for assistance and security towards Europe, p. 16 – 3. Siding with the Catholic Volunteers, p. 17 – 4. Why Europe, p. 18 – 5. Now <i>merger</i> mania explodes, p. 18 – 6. The right man at the right time, p. 19 – 7. My commitment in Strasbourg, p. 19 – 8. Letter from Strasbourg, p. 20 – 9. The Community Funds strength, p. 21 – 10. Ankara must honors its obligations to Europe, p. 22 – 11. The EU budget must help growth, p. 23 – 12. And now defend the single currency, p. 23 – 13. Spotlight on “Millennium round”, p. 24	
2000... The will to change	» 26
1. Peace? Already done by <i>Il Secolo</i> , p. 26 – 2. Find the values of Union, p. 27 – 3. What Europe in the regions, p. 27 – 4. <i>Par condicio</i> : an appeal to President Ciampi, p. 28 – 5. Enlargement, lacking of political objectives, p. 29 – 6. In global economy need more flexibility, p. 30 – 7. The vote, only salvation, p. 31 – 8. The will to change, p. 32 – 9. Trafficking in women: slavery of 2000, p. 33 – 10. A culture of non-smoking, p. 33 – 11. The <i>right wing</i> will relaunch Europe, p. 34 – 12. Multiannual program for enterprise and entrepreneurship, p. 35 – 13. Party of bookmakers, p. 36 – 14. Roma <i>caput mundi</i> , p. 37 – 15. Waiting for a New Europe, p. 38 – 16. Rome, capital, p. 39 – 17. Health, aim Europe, p. 40 – 18. An historic council, p. 40	

2001... Euro, what future?

page 42

1. EU passes 2001 budget, p. 42 – 2. Mediterranean, to change policy, p. 43 – 3. Amending budget, p. 44 – 4. The future of Europe after Nice, p. 45 – 5. Euro, what future?, p. 46 – 6. Our program, p. 47 – 7. Euro, shield for national currencies, p. 48 – 8. America looks at us with confidence, p. 49 – 9. America with *Polo della Libertà* to Government, p. 50 – 10. Irish “No” to the Nice Treaty, p. 50 – 11. Report abstract on Galileo project, p. 51 – 12. European Union must act compact, p. 54 – 13. Equal opportunities for disabled people, p. 54 – 14. Now we can compete with dollar, p. 55

2002... Member Countries waste EU funds

» 57

1. Why euro, p. 57 – 2. Intervention on Second Report of Economic and Social Cohesion, p. 58 – 3. Comments on Galileo dossier, p. 59 – 4. The member Countries waste EU funds, p. 60 – 5. Why the single currency, p. 61 – 6. Culture and policy at service of new generations, p. 62 – 7. That forgotten solidarity, p. 63

2003... Time of big step

» 65

1. New East Europe, p. 65 – 2. Ten: a new European challenge, p. 66 – 3. EU-US relations, p. 67 – 4. Born the New Europe, p. 68 – 5. God, Homeland and Family, p. 69 – 6. A new partnership for third millennium, p. 70 – 7. New networks in Europe, p. 70 – 8. Transport in EU, p. 72 – 9. The European Semester, p. 74 – 10. Taxation, healthcare and employment, p. 75 – 11. Time of big move, p. 76 – 12. An overview from Brussels, p. 77 – 13. Funds for transport, p. 77 – 14. 2004 EU budget, p. 78

2004-2005... Credibility and stability

» 80

1. From Italy to Europe, p. 80 – 2. Time to say thanks, p. 81 – 3. An agreement downward, p. 82 – 4. Funding for networks Ten, p. 82 – 5. Sessions on Middle East, p. 83 – 6. Financial Regulation for Trans-European networks, p. 84 – 7. Funds to PNA, p. 85 – 8. Strategies for 2005, p. 86 – 9. Ten, an achieved goal, p. 87 – 10. For a growth at 25, p. 88 – 11. Why euro, p. 88 – 12. Antidote euro, p. 89 – 13. Guarantees of stability, p. 90 – 14. Notes on EMU, p. 91 – 15. Credibility and stability, p. 92 – 16. Open Letter, p. 93 – 17. The Action Plan, p. 94 – 18. European economic policy, p. 96 – 19. For a better economy management, p. 97 – 20. Stability programs, p. 97 – 21. The Europe of today and tomorrow, p. 98

2006-2010... Crisis and Europe

page 102

1. Europe and Middle East, p. 102 – 2. New frontier, p. 105 – 3. Europe judges us, p. 107 – 4. Economic crisis, p. 107 – 5. New challenges, p. 108 – 6. Ecology failed, p. 109 – 7. Crisis and Europe, p. 111 – 8. European decadence and its rebirth, p. 112 – 9. Europe that there is not, p. 114 – 10. European and american crisis, p. 114 – 11. Exit from recession, p. 115

Curriculum vitae

» 117

*To my family,
to my Father and my Mother,
to my sister Giulia and my brother Ezio,
to my nephews Niccolò, Carlotta, Luigi, Giulia and Andrea,
to my darling Chiara.*

Foreword

Europe joined up and really accomplished it. In brief, it is the ideal of reconciliation and stability who Turchi's family has always followed over time in our country and in the whole mainland. Recently this family has been the hero of many activities, in order of period we found passionate work of Franz.

In different years, this book goes over basic phases in a number of economical, political and social fields.

Europe must tackle a way who De Gasperi went and began by Rome's Treaties in 1957. I know Franz from long time and I discovered in him a political attitude that I saw it and in my generation, but today there isn't this concept. I hope and I believe in my political field, like a whole domain where I drilled my fruits, in immediate or next future.

Giulio Andreotti

Introduction

Europe, what a dream!

Yes, that's an idea in my mind, I have been to Strasbourg in 1999 and I have always the same idea in my brain, I have always carried out my thoughts and my journey through the European institutions.

This book would be a sign to understand our changes in our old continent at political and economic, as well as at social level.

In the meantime I'm trying to do a close examination of the major events of last ten years (euro, expansion) as to give a perspective to all this.

I believe that the passage of national power portions, mainly in security, foreign and economic policy, can lead to a real building of Europe not only at institutional and bureaucratic level, but in particular popular front.

How many of us Do you know the meaning of PESC (Common Foreign and Security Policy) and not confuse it with some fruit or vegetable? Or how many people Do you know PSR (Program of Rural Growth), FEOGA (European Fund of Agricultural Guarantee Organization) and FERS (European Regional Development Fund)? Few people know, the answer and only the technicians.

Indeed, I believe that only when Europe will speak with a common voice in foreign policy and will have one army, or at least one representative, and one economic policy, people will understand and will appeal to it.

Today, unfortunately this process is blocked because on one hand we do not delegate real powers to Europe, but only what bothers us in our Countries (for example, regulations, rules, restrictions) and on the other it is seen as an obligation to respect (procedures, judgments) that in some cases it even more complicated in everyday, life: both in our professional activities, and in the family.

Unfortunately I do not have a recipe, but I think we can follow one way to finally get something that is felt by all, or at least the majority, as positive.

I think that everything depends on discovering European's values, such as God, and family; God seen as three monotheistic religions (Catholic, Jewish, Muslim); native land means national interest, see for example products defense; family as father, mother and children, namely the natural.

We need rediscover Europe's economy based on agriculture, manufacturing and services; as well as focusing on research in all areas and on "guardian ship" and defense of culture.

If young people begin to think about all this and follow aim, then we have successfully carried out what is our mission link several European people, different religions, histories and cultures.

I hope that reading all of this, they understand passion, decision and my political think toward Europe, it influenced me and my action in last ten years.

Thank you for collaboration to Gabriele Polgar and Franca Di Foggia.

1999... Why Europe

1. Euro driving force of Europe

Word Europe in Italy is associated with word crisis, in a succession of mutual accusations between eminent exponents of Italian politics.

It seems incredible that while everyone celebrates arrival of euro, is symbol of bond in the States members of the European Union, we divide into internal quarrels over who gets to go to his presidency or rather about who should be “likely” candidate.

Result is that, instead of proving to be a solid and united Country, especially when international economy looks at us and analyzes individual Member States, we do not seek for candidate of relief or thickness to represent Italy, but we are looking for a candidate to be sent to Europe in order to satisfy “our” games of domestic politics.

It is really true that it was made unity of economic and monetary policy but we need do political one. We do know even of clashes between Countries that continue to compare to same nomination to the European Central Bank is creating severe instability in an organism that everything must do unless to show uncertainty to its vertices.

Euro is just beginning of a great goal that it should link all of us: true and solid glue of Countries belonging to Community with a common and wide-ranging foreign policy, a policy of Defense that do not contrast various positions involved, but that gives us an international role, fight against crime as agriculture problems and so on all other matters of crucial importance.

Of course, beginning of euro has been invigorating everyone, even for the most skeptical on subject, but it must be driving force for initiatives in all primary areas of a State which in this case has expanded its borders more than 300 million people.

On the carpet we have as first challenge unemployment and lifeless growth of national economies, points on which we must quickly act without flattening on the euro success in financial markets, but starting to seriously discuss of flexible working and reduction of the tax burden for businesses.

Gone are the days of political slogans, we must act, otherwise the market will immediately answer as negative.

2. A new policy for assistance and security towards Europe

Now we can no longer talk about pensions problem only as a propagandistic argument, but we have to intervene and stabilize the sector. This is subject that is not affects older people, but also younger ones like myself, being now certain that following this rate we could not have anymore any retirement.

In Italy, IRS (Internal Revenue Service) takes three percentage points higher than in other Countries and does it even on low pensions, exacerbating problem.

Nobody never consider that we should “raise” minimum pensions, which are majority, or that we should try, with entry in euro, to tie them to “real” indexes of cost of living increase.

Further, to consider retraits problem as the “big bad wolf” of course does not solve it, but magnify it with dizzying increases required for seniority pensions in comparison with those of oldness.

However it is not a fault of the people if there is not credibility in a Country with development opportunities and also if they fear the pensions disappearance or reduction.

In the meantime we have never hear of the delay caused to 650,000 pensioners with the new reform, healthy thing perhaps for the public deficit, but to the limit of democratic freedoms for the people of a Country who declares civil.

At this point, speaking of reform, I want to point out that from 1993 to 1998 were saved 90.000 billion lire, but at the same time there has been no change in the health and social care for all of us. If, in fact, on the one hand the State “save” enormous sums of money, the other should compensate with better public services offered to us citizens.

This is not the case and more and more we are forced to accept reductions in our paychecks and retraits without having to change anything in terms of infrastructure, services and support to disabled people.

Solutions to the problem may be:

- Reduction of the tax burden on pensions, bringing it to the European average;
- Defuse the pensions problem as a non-problem, instead considering it a right of people, in order to provide a stable and reliable solution;
- Maximize, or better focus, “saving” the State towards welfare and health services. Also bind to real index pensions by the cost of living, especially keeping an eye on minimum;
- Ultimately, create growth and wealth will allow to retirees to more and more interact, even when it will be surpassed threshold of their working lives, with new experiences in the world of work.

3. Siding with the Catholic Volunteers

“Rediscovering the Christian roots of Europe”. So Pope John Paul II spoke several times, and I believe him, we should all act to deal with serious problems facing the Old Continent. Tragic problems, such as war, or socially and spiritually devastating problems, such as lack of jobs and family breakdown.

But how do we rediscover our Christian roots? One of the most eloquent answer surely comes to us every day by silent and tireless world of the Christian and Catholic volunteers: from organizations, associations, large and small communities based on the strength of faith and engaged in a work of inestimable value. A job that deserves respect and, above all, support. Moral support but also political. Support from the Italian government and, increasingly, by the European institutions.

In fact, Europe is one of subjects intended to deal with an increasingly influential and active manner about problems and needs of a globalized world. And it is in Europe, then, that we must be committed to recognition of these efforts and these values.

Moreover, from the tragedy of these days (extermination taking place in Kosovo) there comes a double confirmation.

First: without the action of Catholic volunteers, without those supplies of food and medicines, without moral support and medical care, the plight of that people on the run would be even bigger.

Second: often not only organizational agility, but also political and diplomatic skills of Catholic volunteers can achieve results unthinkable of individual governments. Therefore it is an unique heritage, a reality that should be promoted and encouraged with aid and concrete support.

4. Why Europe

How much value Do you still have ideas, processes, purposes, programs at the spectacle offered by some political forces? How much confidence is still remained in the electorate after the ratification of reversals consumed in municipalities, in regions, in Parliament? According to me, dear friend, nothing more than Europe can help us get over through this.

No culture more than the European can also stimulate our Country on the road to modernity, the free market, the full employment, the free teaching, the true solidarity and social and humanitarian rights.

I therefore believe that today Italy needs more than ever to rely in Europe, to solve problems of the South and to take advantage of the huge untapped potential so far. Both to restart the economy drastically decreasing the taxes and to combat unemployment through greater labor flexibility. Both to restore security to honest and industrious citizens and to guarantee their health care system and social security to be efficiently and reliably over time.

Also, do not forget, with launch of the single currency is important for the European Parliament is set to grow considerably. It is in our own interest ensure Italy, a founding Country of the Community, finally acquire a position to a proper role. The party National Alliance has forever been fighting against these awards! For this we need lavish all our efforts, civic passion and professional experience in an effort to give a voice to those who believe in the ideals and values of a healthy and united family and a just and fraternal society; this is because I think this only I hope we have to restart our Italian Company, in Europe.

5. Now *merger* mania explodes

In Europe, as indeed in a part rest of the world, acquisitions and merging are in order of day. I think about world there is value of merging in the insurance and banking was \$ 232 billion, in electronics and telecommunications more than \$ 78 billion, in tourism of almost \$ 30 billion.

With these numbers, we need understand why *merger* mania was born. On what basis and with what objectives the most important sectors of the international economy point to merging?

The answer is based on some basic considerations: the first concerns the so-called globalization of markets, and so they need ensure a services network and a product one sales as widely as possible.

The second it has to do with development of technology which is always becoming faster, than forcing more and more companies to be competitive in both price and quality of products.

Also I add a revolution euro, forcing the European market to further accelerate what had already happened in other continents.

Added to this is that free competition interfere more and more in terms of prices for both products and services and there is a need to improve companies quality in all of its target sectors.

6. The right man at the right time

These days, after the European election campaign, the news that most excited me and gave me wish in international politics is the candidacy of George Bush in the U.S. presidential election. So far passions of entire families, often with some difficulty and related risks, but always introduced by the enthusiasm and after a big emotional push, brought into politics the great power of ideas.

In families with political tradition, in moments of relaxation and reflection, the focus is not based on topics such as sports or business interests, but still on politics. Ever since you're a kid policy is breathed at home as the true and only argument to which one should pay attention, for which one suffers and rejoices. George Bush follows political traditions that his family expressed in the last century, and at the same time is a continuation of political ideals and values of the Republican Party who made great the United States. The traditions are renewed and gain strength and in some cases they also give hope to see winning political ideas and projects.

Indeed, In my opinion, we are going to the end of this "democratic cycle" and that we get back to a changing of the guard with the advent of a possible, and highly desirable, Republican Presidency. We could not possibly find a better credited candidate, with a family, especially the parents, who knows all the American machinery of state and, not least, is recognized as an international figure of great prestige.

The same candidate son is recognized as a good politician and also demonstrated dowries power management certainly considerable, having been recently re-elected governor of Texas. Everyone, including the American press, recognize his qualities.

The road from here to the election and still long and strewn with obstacles, but our hope can only be this: *ad maiora!*

7. My commitment in Strasbourg

What a campaign for the European elections! After two months to run for a huge college, more than 9 million voters, spread over four regions, having