



TAORMINA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL



LA METAMORFOSI DI EUROPA

THE SECOND TAORMINA/ MESSINA CONFERENCE (ORGANIZED BY TAOBUK FESTIVAL AND VISION) – TENTATIVE AGENDA

EUROPE IN A POST PANDEMIC WORLD – ONE YEAR ONWARDS LOOKING FOR THE IDEAS TO CONTINUE THE DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE IN THE 21ST CENTURY 18th – 20th JUNE 2021

At the beginning of October 2020, the time at which the first MESSINA/TAORMINA CONFERENCE was held, the perception was that the worse of the COVID19 pandemic was over. Instead, we were wrong. In fact, the conference took off just in time before Europe was overwhelmed by a second wave which has proven much longer and more damaging than the first. Today, even more than one year ago, it looks like the pandemic “war” and the ensuing dramatic economic and political crises are forcing us all at a crossroad of history.

Statistical evidence shows that Europe is paying the highest economic and health price to the emergency. Cases like the vaccination campaign are certainly an indicator that the Union’s current institutional arrangement creates vulnerabilities vis-à-vis the frequent shocks which may become a defining feature of the 21st century.

The pandemic “war” and the subsequent dramatic economic and political crises have, indeed, forced us all at a crossroad of history. And at this point, either we find the intellectual energy, the creativity and the moral commitment to radically reconsider the nature of the European project; or we accept that what Ursula Von Der Leyen calls a “style of life” may never be back as before the Pandemic outbreak.

One year after the first Taormina/ Messina conference, Vision and TAOBUK are calling a three-day meeting in Sicily where thirty visionary intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and historians will gather to continue the discussion to build a Union capable of adapting to the complexity of the 21st century.

The conference will run in parallel with the Taormina Book Festival. Taormina will be one of the four cities where the memory of Dante Alighieri – author of the “Divina Commedia” and one of the greatest Poet of all times – will be celebrated, as the 2021 will be the 700th anniversary of his death. Dante and his visionary representation can well have been back one of the first powerful inspiration which are at the origin of the European dream: one of the major distinctiveness of the conference will be that Taobuk and Vision will be to actively

aim to put together experts of European integration together with the intellectuals who can help renovate the values upon which great political projects are developed.

We will then have not only experts and some of the greatest witnesses of the project, but also writers, artists, philosophers, who may help reminding that from Kant's vision of a Perpetual Peace to the MANIFESTO drafted by Spinelli, Ernesto Rossi and Ursula Hirschmann in Ventotene, the idea of Europe was built with both values and pragmatism. The speakers will also reflect Europe's different cultural angles, different ages and gender: we believe that part of the problem of the debate on EUROPE has been that it has been delegated to specialists incapable of conceiving a strategy and engaging citizens.

The discussions will be inspired by the manifesto drafted at the end of the first conference and the organization will be the following:

1. The conference will be open by two plenary sessions which will provide a framework on how Europe has fared vis-à-vis the last year events and the possible directions for the future.
2. We will then split into three working groups which will focus on three questions we see as fundamental: global digital platforms and the European approach to the battle for the 21st century; Next Generation EU and completing the EU Hamiltonian moment; The COVID-19 pandemic and adapting the welfare and health systems to the 21st Century.
3. Three further plenaries (on the relationship with the UK, on Africa as a problem which can be turned into an opportunity and, finally, on the need to reform cohesion policies) will follow.
4. A further presentation on concrete "positive actions" to strengthen a European demos (Erasmus for all and European community service) and a European public opinion (media and EP electoral law), will happen on Sunday.
5. We also envisage an online dialogue on the future with head of governments on where will Europe be positioned by 2030.
6. Conclusions of the three working groups and first hints for the 2021 Taormina manifesto by the chairs will conclude the conference.

The above three working groups (in 2) and the proposals for building Europe from the bottom (in 4) will be prepared through four online seminars with the participants in the months before the conference. Participants are also welcome to attend other events at the Taormina Book Festival and to Dante Alighieri's celebrations which will be held at the same time of the conference. The envisaged structure of the agenda is¹:

¹ * To be confirmed

** By WEB

FRIDAY MORNING 18th JUNE (MESSINA)

8:30 – 9:30 Welcome breakfast

9:30 – 9:45 Opening remarks – Salvatore Cuzzocrea (Rector University of MESSINA), Gaetano Armao** (Assessore Economia Regione Sicilia) and Roberto Lagalla (Assessore all'Istruzione e alla Formazione Professionale Regione Sicilia)

9:45 – 10:15 Introduction to Conference program

Antonella Ferrara (President and Founder TAOBUK - Taormina International Book Festival) – Francesco Grillo (Director Vision)

Stefania Giannini** (Assistant Director for Education, UNESCO and former Minister for Universities, Research and Education in Italy) and Bill Emmott** (Author of “The fate of the West” and former editor of The Economist) (CO – CHAIRS)

10:15 – 11:30 WINNERS AND LOSERS OF THE GREAT PANDEMIC WAR: EUROPE AT A CROSS ROAD BETWEEN HAMILTON AND THE MURPHY LAW

Romano Prodi** (Former Prime Minister of Italy and Former President of the European Commission), Manuel Vilas (Columnist El Mundo and El PAIS), Raffaele Stancanelli (Eurodeputato Gruppo ECR, Vicepresidente Commissione Iuri), Alexandra Geese (MEP, Alliance 90/ The Greens), Antonio Tajani** (Presidente della Commissione Affari Costituzionali del Parlamento Europe)

Chair: Saldutti Nicola (Corriere della Sera)

Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 THE WAY FORWARD: THE FIRST CONFERENCE MANIFESTO AND THE IDEAS TO TRIGGER A DEBATE

Francesco Grillo (Director VISION), Maria Cristina Messa** (Italy's Minister for Universities and Research), Mario Nava** (European Commission DG REFORM – Director General), Koert Debeuf (Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy Europe and Editor in Chief, EUObserver), Elvira Amata (Presidente Commissione Statuto ARS), Lucrezia Reichlin (Economista, London Business School)

Chair: Saldutti Nicola (Corriere della Sera)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

FRIDAY AFTERNOON 18th JUNE (MESSINA)

14:30 – 15:00 Introduction to the 3 WGS from each introducer

15:30 – 17:15 WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

Group 1. DEMOCRATICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GLOBAL DIGITAL PLATFORMS AS THE EUROPEAN APPROACH TO THE 21ST CENTURY

Introduction: Alexandra Geese (MEP, Alliance 90/ The Greens)

Discussants: Ernest Wilson** (Former Dean of Annenberg School of Communication in LA and Director of the USC center for Third Space thinking), Francesco Lapenta (Institute of Future and Innovation Studies. John Cabot University, Rome), Paul Nemitz** (Principal Adviser on Justice Policy, EU Commission, Member of German Data Ethics Commission, Global Council on Extended Intelligence), Francesco Bonfiglio (Chief Executive Officer at GAIAX), Eli Hadzhieva (Dialogue for Europe), Steven Everts (Senior Advisor on strategy and communications at the European External Action Service), Alfio Puglisi (King's College London), Raffaele Stancanelli (Eurodeputato Gruppo ECR, Vicepresidente Commissione Iuri), Marco Berlinguer (Researcher Institut de govern i polítiques públiques (IGOP).

Chair: Jan Piotrowski (The Economist, Business Editor)

Group 2. NEXT GENERATION EU AND COMPLETING THE EU HAMILTONIAN MOMENT

Introduction: Koert Debeuf (Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy Europe and Editor in Chief, EUobserver)

Discussants: Lorenzo Fioramonti** (Italy's MP and Former Minister of Universities, Schools and Research), Giovanna Melandri** (Presidente Human Foundation), Marco Maria Aterano (Università degli Studi di Messina - docente di Storia Contemporanea), Michele Geraci (Professore di pratica della politica economica alla Nottingham University di Ningbo), Cosimo Pacciani** (Senior Advisory Board Member, International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, UNESCO and former Chief Risk Officer at European Stability Mechanism), Stefania Baroncelli (Professor Public and European Union Law at Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), Antonio Nicita** (Principal Adviser European Commission, Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board), Alberto Bramanti (Professor of Regional Economics, Bocconi University), Antonio Parenti (Capo della rappresentanza della Commissione Europea in Italia), Maria Letizia Giorgetti (Professore Associato Università degli Studi di Milano), Roberto Castaldi (Associate Professors Università Ecampus and General Editor Euractiv Italia), Luca Jahier (Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee).

Chair: Saldutti Nicola (Corriere della Sera)

Group 3. THE GREAT PANDEMIC AND ADAPTING THE WELFARE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS TO THE 21ST CENTURY

Introduction: Stefano Campostrini (Professore ordinario Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Discussants: Giuseppe Ippolito** (Scientific Director of the National Institute for Infectious Diseases (INMI) "Lazzaro Spallanzani" in Rome and Member of Italian Scientific Committee for COVID related policies), Giacomo D'Amico (Università degli Studi di Messina - Docente di Diritto Costituzionale), John F. Ryan** (Director Public Health, European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety), Laura Silvia Battaglia (Journalist, freelance contributor The Washington Post), Yang Lin** (WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development), Demir Murat Seyrek (European Foundation for Democracy), Fabio Masini (Jean Monnet Chair for European Economic Governance, Roma Tre, Secretary of the European Federalist Movement).

Chair: Angela Giuffrida (The Guardian)

SATURDAY MORNING 19th JUNE (TAORMINA)

8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 Introduction to the second day. Stefania Giannini and Bill Emmott** (CO – CHAIRS)

9:30 – 10:30 WG Report from Chairs

10:30 – 11:30 THE OTHER NEXT GENERATION EU AND ... REFORMING REGIONAL COHESION POLICIES

Introduction: Francesco Grillo (Director Vision)

Discussants: Mikel Landabaso** (Director of Growth and Innovation at the Joint Research Center of the European Commission), Alberto Bramanti (Professor of Regional Economics, Bocconi University).

Chair: John Hooper (Italy and Vatican correspondent of The Economist)

TAOBUK TIME WITH DANTE CELEBRATIONS

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 19th JUNE (TAORMINA)

14:30 – 15:25 CAN THE GREEN DEAL REALLY BE "THE MAN ON THE MOON" EU MOMENT? A DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Dialogue with Enrico Giovannini** (Ministro delle Infrastrutture e delle Mobilità Sostenibili), Francesco Grillo (Director at VISION) /Jan Piotrowski (The Economist, Business Editor)

Q&A

15:35 – 16:30 BACK TO AFRICA: THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS EUROPE'S NEXT FRONTIER

Introduction: Stefania Giannini (Deputy Director at UNESCO)

Discussants: Ruggero Aricò (Vice Presidente di Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo), Sergio Abrignani (Professor at University of MILAN, Director of the National Institute of Molecular Genetic and member of ITALY'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE advising the government on COVID19 PANDEMIC), Demir Murat Seyrek (European Foundation for Democracy), Hannah Lucinda Smith** (Times, Correspondent for Turkey and the Balkans), Steven Everts (Senior Advisor on strategy and communications at the European External Action Service), Luca Jahier (Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee).

Chair: Laura Silvia Battaglia (Writer and Journalist)

Q&A

16:35 – 17:30 "WE (ALMOST) DID EUROPE, LET'S MAKE THE EUROPEANS" POSITIVE ACTIONS FOR BUILDING EUROPE FROM THE BOTTOM: ERASMUS AND NEW PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS

Introduction: Lorenzo Fioramonti** (Italy's MP and Former Minister of Universities, Schools and Research)

Discussants: Kalypso Nikolaidis** (St Antony's College, University of Oxford), Francesca Pellegrino (Università degli Studi di Messina – docente di Diritto della Navigazione), Stefania Baroncelli (Professor Public and European Union Law at Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), Sandro Gozi** (Former Italy's Minister for European Affairs, MEP elected in France and secretary general of EDP), Roberto Castaldi (Associate Professors Università Ecampus and General Editor Euractiv Italia).

Chair: Angela Giuffrida (The Guardian)

Q&A

SUNDAY MORNING 20th JUNE (TAORMINA)

8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 BREXIT ONE YEAR FORWARD: IS THERE LIFE OUTSIDE THE EU?

Introduction/Chair: Bill Emmott** (Writer and Former Editor of the Economist)

Discussants: Koert Debeuf (Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy Europe and Editor in Chief, EUObserver), Gavin Hewitt (Former Chief Correspondent for Europe, BBC), Michele Messina (Professore Associato Diritto dell'Unione Europea Università degli Studi di Messina).

Coffee Break

10.00 -11.00 Mediamorfosi. La trasformazione dei mezzi di comunicazione

Introduction: Alexandra Borchardt** (Head of Digital Journalism Fellowship Hamburg Media School, Senior Research Associate, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford)

Discussants: Kelly Falconer (Asia Literary Agency), Paul Nemitz** (Principal Adviser on Justice Policy, EU Commission, Member of German Data Ethics Commission, Global Council on Extended Intelligence).

Chair: Viviana Mazza (Journalist, Corriere della Sera)

MONDAY MORNING 21st JUNE (TAORMINA)

11:00 – 12:00 CONFERENCE WRAP UP AND FOLLOW UPS – DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE

Dialogue with Paolo Gentiloni** (European Commissioner for Economy) interviewed by Bill Emmott** (Writer and Former Editor of the Economist) and John Hooper (Italy and Vatican correspondent of The Economist)

12:00 – 13:00

Dialogue with Giorgia Meloni (President of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party) interviewed by Bill Emmott** (Writer and Former Editor of the Economist) and John Hooper (Italy and Vatican correspondent of The Economist)

Concluding Remarks: Antonella Ferrara (President and Founder TAOBUK - Taormina International Book Festival) – Francesco Grillo (Director Vision) - Stefania Giannini (Assistant Director for Education, UNESCO and former Minister for Universities, Research and Education in Italy) and Bill Emmott** (Author of “The fate of the West” and former editor of The Economist) (CO – CHAIRS)