

## ***Global Conversation with Hon. Sandro Gozi: a Lecture on priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union***

On Monday, 27th of October, the 2014 class of Global Governance had the chance to meet Hon. Sandro Gozi (undersecretary of state with regard to the European Policies), who is in charge of the coordination of activities and measures concerning the semester of Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The starting point of the Conference was dedicated to the European elections that took place at the end of June and whose result stressed that the absolute majority of European voters asked for a deep change in Europe.

According to Hon. Gozi, one of the main causes of European citizens' disappointment was the lack of faith towards a Union that didn't respect its promises. That's why the new Presidency is willing to keep them in order to make European citizens satisfied with the Union.

As a new European political cycle has been launched, the beginning of the semester will be focused on the institutional transition that, by definition, takes place at the very beginning of a new Commission: that's why a new Agenda had to be defined to identify what and how the European Union must work to meet the demand for change expressed during the last European Elections.

This Agenda has been organized on three pillars.

### **1. GROWTH AND JOB**

In the words of Hon. Gozi, «We want to make a better use of the flexibility existing in the European rules».

The main idea is to focus more on the European policies and to apply the European rules to stimulate demand and boost growth at a national and European level.

Concerning the national level, the goal is to move ahead and carry out the national structural reforms for a new growth policy.

Concerning the Member States, Countries should implement those European rules which have not been applied until now and that exist to foster growth and allow development policies.

In this perspective, Hon. Gozi thought about a "New triangle for growth", that first concerns some national structural reforms, secondly the role of the European Central Bank, and finally a new investment policy at European level: *the Juncker plan*. This plan must be accompanied by measures, at a national level, to fight unemployment, and at an European level, to make existing programs such as the *youth guarantee* effective and permanent.

### **2. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

According to Hon. Gozi, «Europe can't be a merely financial Union, it must be a union of values».

He expressed the necessity to bring down the «hypocrisy wall» of a Union who's very demanding in checking the respect of fundamental rights of third countries, but who doesn't verify it once they reach the Union.

This is why the initiative to develop a new fundamental rights policy at EU level has been undertaken to prevent violation of fundamental rights within the union.

Also the immigration policy and the management of external borders have been approached. The objectives are plural: as they are collective responsibility of the Union, one goal is to switch from an exclusive national action to an European action; secondly, then, a new dialogue and cooperation between Europe and other countries must be reached, in order to support economies in emerging Countries.

### **3. FUNCTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Italian Government is trying to launch a concrete work to revise the structure and functions of the European Union, that actually needs more synergy, efficiency and a better planning of the legislative work. The first step to reach these goals is to exploit the current treaty of Lisbon, even without changing it. Hon. Sandro Gozi ended the meeting by stressing the importance of the European project for the future of European countries.

As students of Global Governance we've been particularly interested in the treated issues.

In fact, hearing about these European concerns made us aware of what we'll be dealing with during the next three years. We now hope to reach a better Union characterized by a stronger feeling of European appurtenance.

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