



Festival of Europe - Demonstration on 11 May 2013 in Florence

# The United States of Europe to Overcome the Crisis

## A Europe for citizens, the citizens for Europe

The economic and financial crisis started in the United States, infected Europe and is endangering the fragile unity of the continent. The crisis aggravated in the last two years provoking heavy economic and social costs. It intensified the decline of the Italian and European society in the global context.

The European states are pursuing their austerity policies as if the crisis had economic and financial reasons. However, the fundamental data of the European and Eurozone economy - deficit, debt, saving, reserves, trade balance - are on the whole much better than those of the US or Japan. The European Union is the second largest economy and saving pool of the world. This economic data, coupled with an excellent education system, could allow Europe another cycle of economic development and prosperity.

The European crisis has political and institutional origins. The contradiction between a single market, a single currency and 17 different economic and fiscal policies makes an adequate answer to the euro crisis impossible. It allows speculations against European sovereign debts, that would not be possible if we had a European federal government, a lender of last resort and a federal budget of the euro area - just as in the US where highly indebted members states within a highly indebted federal government are not under speculative attack.

In a globalized world only continent-wide states like the USA, China, India, Russia, and Brazil can compete among themselves, and Europe's choice is "unite or perish!".

We, the citizens of Europe, are aware that more Europe is needed to overcome the crisis. National budgets stability is necessary. But at the same time it is necessary and urgent to provide for a European macro-economic policy based on fiscal powers and the possibility to issue Euro-project-bonds to launch a plan for sustainable development in Europe. On this depends the welfare and the solidarity of Europe.

At the same time European democracy must be strengthened, ensuring that the executive authority at the European level is accountable and legitimized by the European citizens. The European Parliament must be strengthened generalizing the co-decision procedure, and in such a way that European citizens can choose a European government through the European elections. Veto power must be completely abolished in the whole decision making process of the EU. This way the European citizens will be able to decide the Union policies.

Therefore, we demand the start of a constituent process to create a genuine economic and political Union, starting with the Eurozone and open to all EU countries willing to join in. We ask European parties present their candidates for President of the Commission and political platforms for the reform and the government of the EU at the 2014 European elections, that will be a fundamental step in the constituent process.

The Constitution of the United States of Europe should be ratified by a European referendum and should come into force if it is approved by the majority of the European citizens, but only for those countries where the majority of the people voted in favour. The other states will thus be free to join or leave the United States of Europe.

**It is time to make Europe!**