

ASSOCIAZIONE

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QUADERNI D'AZIONE EUROPEISTA
SCHRIFTENREIHE FÜR EINE EUROPÄISCHE AKTION
EUROPEAN MILITANT PAPERS CAHIERS MILITANTS EUROPÉENS

4 - 2014

RESTARTING EU ECONOMY VIA KNOWLEDGE-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

A CONTRIBUTION OF ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE DIÀLEXIS
TO JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER'S STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES
FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Associazione Culturale Diàlexis has been founded in 2006 at the occasion of the celebration of the 50 years of the Rome Treaty.

It published t that occasion, with the publishing house Alpina, the Book “50 Years of Europe, Images and Reflections”, and organised in the Palace of the Piedmont Region the exhibition “Immagini e riflessioni per i 50 anni d’Europa”. It has the aim of diffusing in Piedmont the knowledge of Europe and in Europe the knowledge of the Piedmont.

The European Militant Papers” are a joint e.book series of Associazione Culturale Diàlexis and of Alpina, aiming at dealing with the most vibrant European questions with an approach joining deep documentation and tight connection with current events.

They are characterized by their militant attitude, critical towards present-days bureaucratic and materialistic management of the European Union.

Riccardo Lala, chairman of the Associazione, has participated to the making of Europe in the most diverse capacities: youth movements, Trade Associations, national and European public service, management of financial and industrial European multinationals in the areas of fashion, chemistry, energy, high tech, transportation, defense, service and publishing.

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For any communication, please write to:

Alpina srl

Via . giuria 6

10125 Torino

e-mail: info@alpinasrl.com

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ICT Shall not Destroy,
it shall Enhance European Identity

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A CHANGE OF PARADIGM

The VIII Legislature of the European Parliament corresponds to a period of intensive transformation of world economy and society, when traditional trends of European life are set aside by a series of emerging events, leading to the deterioration of the position of Europe and its citizens, unless a strong countervailing action is undertaken by intellectuals, politics, churches, companies and civil society.

The recession, which is eroding all economies of Europe starting from the 2nd Semester 2014, and which has been dramatically increased by the trade war with Russia, our fastest growing customer, constitutes an early warning against an impending civilizational crisis. **The unchallenged development of new technologies**, which Europe has been unable to master, is disrupting the traditional culture, politics and economy of the Europeans, jeopardizing the autonomy of the person, freedom of conscience and of expression, the rights of privacy, family life, democracy.

The displacement of production, trade and consumption across the world and **the dilution of the traditional leading role of the States** brings about the preeminence, over legitimate authorities, of multinational corporations, financial forces, secret services and terrorist organisations, **to the lack of both equity and effectiveness**, **to the loss of jobs**, **to the voiding of legal rights**, **to the squandering of assets accumulated by families and States** over centuries of efforts and of struggles, **to the dispersion of cultural and religious traditions.**

The **disproportionate role of anonymous social apparatus** destroys the stamina of young generations, diffusing

incompetence, unemployment, drug abuse, indifference to culture and politics, to a lack of identification with society and with Europe.

Already the **Copenhagen Declaration about European Identity** of 1973 had stressed the **humanistic character of the original European Project**, which is now **completely going lost because of an improper identification of the European Union with technocratic globalization**. The leaders of the **“Dissent” and of the 1989 Revolution** (such as Sol’ženicin, Pope John Paul II, Wałęsa, Havel and Ševardnadze), had promised that they would have created a system **“better than capitalism and socialism”**, but those promises have been completely forgotten.

Social Market Economy was a typical product of **communitarian Old Central Europe (the European Communities)**, based on a **mixed economy and society** (agricultural, industrial, knowledge-oriented; public, private, mixed, social; great, middle and small enterprises; employers and employees; State and Churches; operational planning and market competition; social spirit and meritocracy; World solidarity and European Pride; national identities and local freedoms). On the contrary, the **present days Union has become a technocratic bureaucracy of materialistically and individualistically oriented officers more comfortable with accounting than with European culture, international politics**. Using the capture **“Social Market Economy”** for selling the **disbanding of European economies and societies is a mystification**.

In any case, it is noteworthy that the European Parliament and the President Candidate of the European Commission, so reversing the traditional neglect of European Institutions, have

situated ICT at the center of their priorities – the former by its **“Digital Habeas Corpus”** and the second **promising new jobs thanks to ICT. This constitutes a good beginning, since ICT is the core of postmodern society.** However, **the two approaches appear to be limited, disconnected from each other, and even opposed in practice,** so risking to take away any momentum to this embryonic acknowledgement. In fact, according to us, the protection of the citizens' privacy **cannot take place without a comprehensive reflection about the intrinsically totalitarian threats coming out from the current web communitarism,** which is, at its turn, an expression of the **technocratic claim for total control on society.** Again, **the overcoming, thanks to ICT, of the unprecedented “official” unemployment of about 20 million Europeans** (of which 5,6 youngsters) cannot take place without a radical transformation of European social structures, which should allow our Continent **to take the world leadership as to Creative Industries** as a whole, but this, again, will not happen without **a reversal of our comprehension of reality and of the mainstream political and social trends.**

By the way, we note that **20 million of “officially” unemployed are just “the top of the iceberg”,** since, in reality, **133 million European (corresponding roughly to 55% of the Continent’s population) are outside of the labor market** (housewives, children, elders, retired, students, invalids, unemployed, detainees..).

It goes without saying that is difficult to manage a society where a minority must breed the majority.

According to us, the starting point shall be **a philosophical debate about technique, about its destiny and about the**

need to master it, following a tradition which includes different personalities, like *Fiodorov, Soloviov, Anders, Heidegger, Gehlen, Kubrick, Joy, De Landa, Rees.*

Schedule 1	Number of unemployed people in Europe	
	ABSOLUTE FIGURES	PERCENTAGE
Employed	221,000,000	45%
Outside of the labor market	233,000,000	55 %
Total EU citizens	494,000,000	100%

Some thinkers, industrialists and managers, having gained the control of the most influential corporations, and, indirectly, on the government of certain Great Powers, are sponsoring a **brand new development: the unification of all technologies** (ICT, bioengineering, neurosciences, micromechanics) into one holistic flux: **“the Singularity”**. The latter would bring about the conversion of man, from a natural being, into an artificial one, which will be generated, grown-up, socialized and healed via artificial means. In a further stage, the software underlying to both the technological and the human world will be unified, by further expanding systems like the Web, NSA, Big Data or the international financial market, into a sole logical and governance system (**“the Age of Spiritual Machines”** of *Ray Kurzweil*). In such world, **the traditional shapes of person, of freedom and democracy are losing their traditional meaning**, since any single person will be left without its own identity, action space and means of resistance against **the “General Intellect”**.

The advancement of this new era of Evolution, defined as

“Post-Human”, is already very evident in several aspects of today's society: the **“Religion of Internet”** substituting traditional religions and political organisations; the **worldwide control system**, which allows the Digital-Military Complex to monitor the habits of all citizens of the world (**the “Big Data”**), to create fake cultural trends, like for instance the “Colored Revolutions” and the “Arab Springs”, and to selectively kill the dissidents by drones flying over far away continents; **mass unemployment**, whereby more than one half of the population is outside the production system (see Schedule 1), so being at the mercy of world finance, of politics, of lobbies, of charities, or, at least, of relatives.

Whilst the cultural and the political worlds, in all continents, are still unable to realize the core mechanisms of this new era, already its “outer side” has created a widespread discontent in the populations. This constitutes, in itself, the most relevant political mover of these days, implying the claim of a stronger cultural, religious, gender, national, continental, **“Identity”**, apt to slow down and to master such growing centralized control. **This resistance may be summarized with the sentence written on the wall of an ancient palace in the center of Luxemburg, the first capital, in the heart of Europe, of the European Communities: “Mir wölle bleiwe wat mir sin” (“We want to remain what we are”).** It is the closing sentence of Luxemburg’s national anthem, devoted not to ancient wars, but, on the contrary, **to the new railway connecting the country with France, Belgium and Germany.** This program, exalted by the founding fathers of the European Communities, has been betrayed by European politics starting from the fall of the Berlin Wall. In fact, the latter has been interpreted as a victory not of eastern European traditions, but, on the contrary, of Western-style globalization. Therefore, the leading forces of the post-humanist revolution , such as ICT multinationals, the

international intelligence community, the Great Powers, try to counter the reactions of the different Identities via a strengthening of their **“Total Control”** on world societies, extolling the socially positive impact of new technologies, manipulating social, cultural and political life everywhere, creating, thanks to their control on the media, artificial social trends like **“Web Democracy”**, **“Total Security”**, **“Democratic Imperialism”**, **“Gender Ideology”**, etc..

Thus, suspects about **the real agenda** of scientists, technologists, big finance, military and intelligence are growing and growing.

As an example, the European Parliament has been literally compelled, during past legislatures, to cope with this problems, especially for what concerns the risk of the creation, by the ICT-Military Complex, of a **“Total Control Society”**, in particular at the occasion of **the Echelon and the PRISM cases**. The new parliament, with a strong representation of different kinds of identitarian MP, will surely emphasize this political trend.

At the same time, European Institutions have developed , over the years, a different set of reflections, focused on the necessity, for Public Powers , to intervene proactively for reducing the inexplicable backwardness of our Continent in ICT, in Creative Industries and, in general, of high technologies (**the “Digital Agenda”**).

In working out the programs of these Legislature for both the European Parliament and the European Commission, it is necessary to introduce **a new comprehensive approach**, capable of explaining, from one part, the political and moral obligation of the European Parliament to protect without any

delay, already at an early stage, the rights of citizens undermined by the all-pervasive presence of the Digital-Military Complex, and, from another side, the necessary effort of the Commission for countering the dramatic economic crisis, by fostering **a brand new set of European high technology enterprises.**

The former European Parliament has already made its best efforts to give a ground to such comprehensive approach, in particular at the occasion of its investigation about **the PRISM Case.** In its **Resolution of 12 March 2014,** the Parliament not only has approved the new **Draft Regulation** containing a new governance for data protection in Europe, but has also outlined a series of measures, which European Institutions should carry out in the next few months in order to render effective the new Regulation. It goes without saying that the threats to the privacy of the Europeans are more numerous and destructive than what a Council Regulation may govern: they go from the logic of “nuclear terror” connected with the ongoing Ukrainian crisis, to the excesses of the “Religion of Internet”, up to the need to counter the backwardness of European High Technologies.

It is for this reason **that the Parliament has requested the Institutions to rethink, within the shortest delays, the whole problematic of European ICT: ICT culture, R&D, intelligence and industrial policy,** so *“to make really of Europe the most advanced area of the world”*, as promised by the **Program Europe 2000,** but never achieved. **It goes without saying that, should Europe become really the most developed country, it would become difficult, for everybody, to impose on it, as it happens today, any kind of policies contrary to its founding principles and to the will of its voters.** And this is the reason why the political world never

dared to seriously pursue the objectives of Europe 2000.

In so doing the Parliament has accomplished, by the Resolution of 13th of March, a very “coup d’état”, since **the Resolution starts the discussion anew; no one of the priorities set by the Parliament following to the Datagate scandal was even foreseen** in the Digital Agenda for Europe of 2010(doc. /* COM/2010/0245 f/2 */ **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**) (Annex n.1).

Unfortunately, the further program 2020 is not apt to change things. As *Freyberg* puts it in the SAP blog, voice of a leading European ICT group:

“Last year, the European Union launched a new research and innovation program called Horizon 2020. Its aim is to secure Europe’s global competitiveness. Between now and 2020, Brussels will be investing €80 billion in promoting and financially supporting new ideas and projects – in addition to the investments from the private sector. However, Freyberg believes the approach is too academic. “There’s too much focus on research and promoting small enterprises. There’s not enough targeted cooperation with large companies to retain and support their international competitiveness,” he explains. “We need to keep hold of the lighthouse companies, the early adopters, because otherwise the whole sector could be doomed,” says Freyberg.

According to us, not even the actions envisaged by the Resolution of 13th of March, even being the most detailed and concrete ever conceived, are not comprehensive enough for

securing the above objectives, **so that they must be implemented, by EU Institutions, in all directions, and especially in the ones of foreign and defense, industrial policy and Creative Industries in general.**

The first change of approach should be that, **instead of just identifying an amount (300 billion Euro), and simply giving it to banks in the hope they lend this moneys to enterprises and families, the EU should** (alongside the models of Internet, EADS, Gazprom) **identify projects at political level** (the Web, e.publishing, intercontinental tourism); **carry out directly the pre-competitive steps, incorporate the corporate vehicles and open up their capital, foster them via “European preferences” and easy financing, forecast their employment impact; condition any aids to compliance with the business plan and employment conditions, go on up to completing filling the employment gap.**

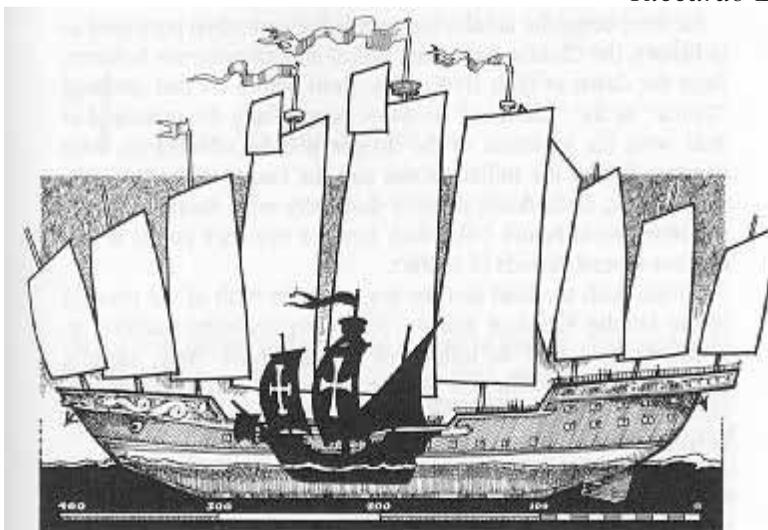
This would correspond to the reality of **the great continental powers** (and, in first instance, US and China), which are our main competitors: the one of **“Innnovating States”, which do not follow either the recipes of free-trade ideology** (either in their Keynesian, or in the Monetarist version), **nor the ones of marxism** (either in the one of real socialism, nor in the one of anglo-saxon liberalism), **but, as described by Mariana Mazzucato, create the bases on which national champions may overcome foreign competitors**, so extending worldwide the strength of their respective Mother Lands.

In any case, the Resolution of 13th March states that the future Commission will also be judged on the basis of its willingness to conform to the directives expressed in the Resolution. In our interpretation, the fact that the President Designate of the Commission has indicated, at the first place in his list of priorities, **the one of creating new jobs thanks to ICT**, is an

already an answer, though a partial and an indirect one, to the Parliament's statement.

This paper aims at further implementing these dialectics among the priorities of the Institutions, between an approach based on the protection of rights and another focused on restarting European Economy, inserting such problematic within today's general context, which is the one of Post- human and is connected to an accelerating rush toward the militarization of world society (“**the Third World War**”, as stated in the Pope’s warning).

For Associazione Culturale Diàlexis
Riccardo Lala



*Zheng He's treasure ship (four hundred feet) and Columbus's St. Maria (eighty-five feet).
(Illustration by Jan Adkins, 1993.)*

The Preeminence of Chinese vs. European Technologies already in the 15th Century

I. HISTORY BEHIND EUROPE'S ECONOMIC DECLINE

The fact that Europe has not yet recovered from the 2008 financial crisis, and that, on the contrary, it is still on the verge of recession, is luckily opening the eyes at least to some of Euro citizens, who are realizing that, albeit the ideals of peace, European identity and continental sovereignty, as well as of a European Social Model, are still very attractive, **the practical results of the policies conducted by the Union up to now have sacrificed the above ideals to a myth of materialistic affluence, which the same system is not capable even to maintain**, so discrediting the true European Ideal, which has nothing to do with such false promises, nor with their obvious non-fulfilment.

We strongly object to the fact that European leaders have tackled this extraordinary bundle of complicated questions in a simplistic way, driven by the anxiety to answer the questions of their constituencies, and not by a genuine will to solve the problems

We find also that all mainstream economic schools, not differently from mainstream political ideologies, having been generated at least 100 years ago, **are no more apt to describe present days world economy**, as it appears at the beginning of **the transition from the “Society of Intelligent Machines” (Manuel De Landa) to the “Society of Spiritual Machines” (Ray Kurzweil).**

The “Euro-skeptical” vote, as well as the different referendums proposed and/or under way, is just a timid beginning for the expression of this generalized discontent. In fact, Euro-skepticism and micro-nationalisms, remaining

confined within the conceptual framework of “modern” ideologies (irrespective whether Keynesian, free-trade oriented, monetarist, “declinist” or neo- Marxist), has not been able to propose any concrete transformation plan. **They have been just self-serving ideologies for reducing the hard core opposition capabilities of the peoples of Europe against the step-by-step downsizing of their role in the world.**

GDP (PPP) in millions of 1990 International Dollars											
Country / Region	1	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	2003
Austria	213	298	1,414	2,093	2,483	4,104	8,419	23,451	25,702	85,227	173,311
Belgium	135	170	1,225	1,561	2,288	4,529	13,716	32,347	47,190	118,516	219,069
Denmark	72	144	443	569	727	1,471	3,782	11,670	29,654	70,032	124,781
Finland	8	16	136	215	255	913	1,999	6,389	17,051	51,724	106,749
France	2,366	2,763	10,912	15,559	19,539	35,468	72,100	144,489	220,492	683,965	1,315,601
Germany	1,225	1,435	8,256	12,656	13,650	26,819	72,149	237,332	265,354	944,755	1,577,423
Italy	6,475	2,250	11,550	14,410	14,630	22,535	41,814	95,487	164,957	582,713	1,110,691
Netherlands	85	128	723	2,072	4,047	4,288	9,952	24,955	60,642	175,791	348,464
Norway	40	80	183	266	361	777	2,360	5,988	17,728	44,852	118,591
Sweden	80	160	382	626	1,231	3,098	6,927	17,403	47,269	109,794	193,352
Switzerland	128	123	411	750	1,068	2,165	5,581	16,483	42,545	117,251	164,773
UK	320	800	2,815	6,007	10,709	36,232	100,180	224,618	347,850	675,941	1,280,625
12 country total	11,146	8,366	38,450	56,784	70,988	142,399	338,979	840,612	1,286,434	3,660,561	6,733,430
Portugal	180	255	606	814	1,638	3,043	4,219	7,467	17,615	63,397	144,694
Spain	1,867	1,800	4,495	7,029	7,481	12,299	19,556	41,653	61,429	266,896	684,537
Other	1,240	504	632	975	1,106	2,110	4,712	12,478	30,600	105,910	294,733
Total Western Europe	14,433	10,925	44,183	65,602	81,213	159,851	367,466	902,210	1,396,078	4,096,764	7,857,394
Eastern Europe	1,956	2,600	6,696	9,289	11,393	24,906	50,163	134,793	185,023	550,756	786,408
Former USSR	1,560	2,840	8,458	11,426	16,196	37,678	83,646	232,351	510,243	1,513,070	1,552,231
USA	272	520	800	600	527	12,548	98,374	517,383	1,455,916	3,536,622	8,430,762
Other Western offshoots	176	228	320	320	306	951	13,119	65,558	179,574	521,667	1,277,267
Total Western offshoots	448	748	1,120	920	833	13,499	111,493	582,941	1,635,490	4,058,289	9,708,029
Mexico	880	1,800	3,188	1,134	2,558	5,000	6,214	25,921	67,368	279,302	740,226
Other Latin	1,360	2,760	4,100	2,629	3,788	9,921	21,097	94,875	347,960	1,110,158	2,391,919

GDP (PPP) in millions of 1990 International Dollars											
Country / Region	1	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	2003
<u>America</u>											
Total Latin America	2,240	4,560	7,288	3,763	6,346	14,921	27,311	120,796	415,328	1,389,460	3,132,145
<u>Japan</u>	1,200	3,188	7,700	9,620	15,390	20,739	25,393	71,653	160,966	1,242,932	2,699,261
<u>China</u>	26,820	26,550	61,800	96,000	82,800	228,600	189,740	241,431	244,985	739,414	6,187,984
<u>India</u>	33,750	33,750	60,500	74,250	90,750	111,417	134,882	204,242	222,222	494,832	2,267,136
Other east Asia	4,845	8,968	20,822	24,582	28,440	36,451	53,155	122,874	256,938	839,258	3,926,975
<u>West Asia</u>	10,120	12,415	10,495	12,637	12,291	15,270	22,468	40,588	106,283	548,120	1,473,739
Total Asia (excl. Japan)	75,535	81,683	153,617	207,469	214,281	391,738	400,245	609,135	830,428	2,621,624	13,855,834
<u>Africa</u>	8,030	13,835	19,383	23,473	25,776	31,266	45,234	79,486	203,131	549,993	1,322,087
<u>World</u>	105,402	120,379	248,445	331,562	371,428	694,598	1,110,951	2,733,365	5,331,689	16,022,888	40,913,389
Country / Region	1	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	2003

1. The Traditional Primacy of Eastern Asia

Going back to history, European economy has been comparable with the ones of Asia up to the fall of the Roman Empire, but, already during the Middle ages, **Song's China totaled 80% of the world's Gross Revenue (GDP)**, and, still under the reign of **Kubilai Khan**, *Marco Polo* considered that the Mongol Empire was the largest and most prosperous empire of the world. Only at the moment of the “discovery” of America, Europe started, applying some innovations developed in China, India and the Middle East (like the Heliocentric Theory, glasses, gunpowder, compass, printing techniques, large intercontinental vessels), and trading worldwide the precious metals of the Incas, to revitalize its economic and technological assets. Slavery provided a flood of agricultural products from the Americas. The British started transferring the flourishing Indian textile industry into the Isles. However, still at the end of the XVIII century, **the Chinese Emperor had refused the**

access to China of the British ambassador McCartney on the basis that China did not need anything of what Europe was able to export. As recalled by *Goody*, at the middle of the XIX century, at the time of the Opium Wars and of the Sepoysmutiny, the GDP of India, and, respectively, of China, was still higher than the one of the UK. At that time, according to *Karl Marx*, the whole advancement of the Western economy was based on **Afro-American slavery**.

So, only later, whilst the Industrial Revolution developed in Europe, the two old Eastern empires, under European occupation, started to decline. The turning point was constituted by the **Opium War** and by the **Sepoys Mutiny**, when the two great Asian peoples were subjugated by force.



British Military Execute Sepoys' Leaders by Cannon Shots

2. The Disappearing of European High Tech

WWII implied the transfer of the most advanced technologies (ICT, telecommunications, nuclear, aerospace, as well as other Creative Industries, such as higher education, cinema, popular music), from Europe, to USA and the USSR. As *David Milband* says, in 1949, notwithstanding such transfer and the destructions, **the industrial complex of the countries belonging to the Axis had almost the same scale as at the beginning of the war, and started again to be utilized again for the Korean War**, so allowing its aggregate GDP to remain higher than the one of the USA and, respectively, of the USSR, up to now.

During the 50ies, the conversion of war industry into a consumption society took place. It is what was called “**Les Trente Glorieuses**”, or “**The European Miracle**”, which had nothing “**miraculous**”, since it amounted simply to channel, into consumption, the huge capacities of the Axis' military-industrial complex.

In any case, no effort was made to recover the technological preeminence lost with the War. In 1968, *Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber* had already anticipated, in “**Le Défi Américain**”, that in case the Europeans would not have pursued in a systematic way the same paths followed by the US, they would have been confined into a world of backwardness. In fact, they did not master key economic factors, such as cultural industries, intelligence ICT, aerospace and defence, the international finance and service sectors.

Some European countries, such as France and the UK, tried to re-launch their high-tech industries, like in the cases of the **Force de Frappe**, of **BAE**, of **Rolls Royce**, of **Arianespace**, of

the Concorde, of Auditel, of the TGV. However, only a few of these high tech initiatives were able to survive, leaving high tech to the US and the USSR, which pursued parallel policies of industrial satellization of their respective allies.

The efforts of a few Europeans, like De Gaulle and Mattei, trying to counter this decline, were curbed by all means.



Wernher von Braun Surrenders to Americans

3. The Rise of the BRICS

Contrary to Europe, **India and China**, after WWII, having become fully independent, had started at their turn to pursue their own ICT, aerospace, defense, cultural and service industries, so that they have now their own rating agency (Dagong), hardware (Lenovo), software (Huawei), search engines (Baidu and Chihu), e-commerce (Alibaba), space (the “Taikonauts”), 5th generation fighters (Sukhoi-FAKPA, Chinese 6th Generation Fighters), hypersonic techniques (missiles, submarines), media (Bollywood, Qin Dao). In so doing, they just recovered, after 100 years of foreign occupation and depletion, their leading roles in culture, science, technique, politics and military, that they had played for thousands and thousands of years.

With the birth of the Euro, a wave of propaganda tried to persuade Europeans that they had found, at the end, their way to an autonomous development. There was something true in these theory. Indeed, in an ideal world, **a strong currency would have favored high quality production, forcing the delocalization of the weaker ones, and, hence, concentrating high value added activities in the domestic territory, whilst creating a range of “satellite” industries in less developed countries, parallel to what had been done by the US and Russia.**

Unfortunately, this strategy worked only partially, since **the gaps between European and Developing Countries were tighter than the one among US and UE. The most “noble” activities** (ICT headquarters, think tanks, Wall Street, aerospace and defense, media) **remained in the States, not for economic, but for political reasons** (proximity to the world power and to military, security, advocacy, ideology), **so that**

Europe played just an ancillary role, and, especially, constitutes still now the largest passive market for US industries (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Lockheed).



Minitel, the first, European, Internet

4. Dire Prospects for the Future

At present, also Germany, where the policy of a strong currency and of delocalization had been generated, has started to encounter problems, because its industry is penalized by the overvaluation of Euro towards all other currencies, and especially the Dollar, the furious industrial espionage directed against German companies it by NSA and by the self-imposed economic war with Russia.

Finally, US ICT multinationals, like Google and Amazon, exploit more than any other **the tax heavens created by the “conscious parallelism” of US, UK and Dutch legislations**, as *Mariana Mazzucco* has explained very well in her book, whilst whilst German companies may not transfer their headquarters abroad because they are barred by their Supervisory Boards. So, in practice, by an attitude which resembles almost felony, European legislators have allowed the transfer of huge amounts of moneys from European taxpayers and corporations to US multinationals, at the same time when European intelligence is transferring to US trade secrets of the European companies and sensitive data of European citizens.

So, it is not a case that **the American Intelligence Association** (representing the US intelligence community) has foreseen that, **within 2030, Europe will further decline as compared with all major world players**. The press agency “Stratfor” has created, for this situation, the neologism **“New Normal”**. **If Europeans do not change dramatically the rules of the play**, this prophecy will result correct. More: according to *Martin Jacques*, in 2030, the richest country of the world will be China, but, according to *Kurzweil*, at the same date, mankind will be substituted by machines.

Furthermore: **these “rules of the play” are already changing in any way** as an effect of the dialectics among Great Powers, but without any possibility of intervention from the Europeans:

-First: China and, to a lesser extent, Russia, are challenging the US supremacy in all areas of human life. The unprecedented intelligence created by US agencies and ICT multinationals is no more alone on the world market: also China and Russia have become able to master the technological and political moves of their adversaries, often anticipating

them;

-Second: As explained by *Philip Stephens* in the Financial Times of September 5, 2014, paradoxically, the US, after having urged all the world for decades for the abolition of trade barriers and for the adhesion of everybody to WTO, have realized that free trade favors China and Russia, and are therefore trying now to practically liquidate the WTO for substituting it with “regional” trade blocks under US leadership (like **the “TTIP”**). At the same time, China is fostering a parallel series of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with all countries of the world, so devoiding the proposed “American” trade agreements of any possible content (i.e., two alternative, but mirror image, agendas);

-Third: The furious competition among Great Powers described at the second subparagraph above could allow Europe to claim more autonomy in all fields, starting from Creative Industries. Let's remember the joint decision of the EU Commission and of the Brazilian Government to sponsor the activities of a Spanish-Brazilian consortium which is already now setting, on the ground of the Atlantic Ocean, **a new transatlantic cable, connecting directly Europe and south America, without any transit on the US territory**. Not always political proposals are followed by consistent action. For instance, this winter, Angela Merkel had announced that she would have spoken with Francois Hollande of the creation of a European Web, but no action has followed. Vice-versa, the decision of France of giving up the delivery of the Mistral carrier is going to be reviewed thanks to the joint efforts of the Trade Unions and of the Front National.

A full-fledged EU ICT industry will only emerge if the direction indicated by these first steps and by the

Resolution of 12th of March will be pursued without fear. We would remember that the Resolution, in spite of its apparent harshness, sponsors, in reality, a step-by step strategy. In practice, **two different, but partially compatible, strategies**, appear:

a)to go on towards **an independent EU internet**, starting with a European Web and Intelligence, and continuing with ICT culture, technical standards and new European cables, **as suggested by the EU Parliament and by Germany;**

b) continuing the collaboration with the ICT multinationals and US entities, as done with **the French Digital Agenda.**

By the present paper, **we are suggesting that EU Institutions follow an intermediate path**, conditioning the continuation of collaboration on the acceptance, by the same, of precise rules against business intelligence and in favour of privacy, antitrust and taxation, and in any case trying to achieve as much autonomy as possible, especially in the areas where no concessions are to be expected (such as, e.g., in the ones of espionage, data security and monopolization practices).

The feared **“balkanization of Internet”** has already started everywhere, except in Europe. It would be humiliating if only Europe would accept to stay inside a Web whose decision making entities (US President, ICANN, Google, CIA, NSA, Big Data) are all located in the USA, whilst all other Sub-continentals have their own web.