



Taranto, 5thSeptember 2014

Dear President,

As You know, the town of Taranto, that hosts the ILVA steel plants, is facing a particularly difficult time due to extremely heavy sanitary and environmental problems married to the financial insecurity that surrounds ILVA's production, its effective efficiency and the possible sale to a foreign group.

The uncertainty is complete, and it raises not only the heavy sanitary question, as pointed out in many studies and reports, last of which the update of the "Sentieri" Study, but concerns also the future of the plant from its purely economic point of view.

Taranto is a town in the south of Italy that has already been in default (i.e. the central State has taken over its management), where the dramatic medical conditions are today married to a deep social and economic crisis. Taranto's citizens have the right to a future and it is in light of this right that we ask once more Your support in our proposals for a new course.

The situation has been very difficult for many decades, due to the total ineffectiveness of governmental actions and of political deals that have punished the town to save few people's privileges. We want to build an alternative for a town whose biggest industry is failing and it seems very difficult to save due its obsolete structure, a town whose population has been severely affected by the presence of this industry.

In light of the European Parliament's resolution of 21 May 2013, on regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union, we ask Your support in promoting an *Action for Taranto*. We ask You to help us promote a change to reconvert a failing industrial area in new projects that can marry local development initiatives with innovation and a new economic plan. We have imagined alternatives, based on our specificities, but we need institutional support and this support has never come from national, regional or local institutions and where it has, it has severely failed in proposing concrete actions and real moves.

We ask You to step in at our side and promote an Action for Taranto, where the European Commission can work to promote a social cohesion policy, industrial reconversion and a real economic revolution.

We ask You to promote a discussion about the future of Taranto, starting from putting the issue on the agenda of the European Parliament in one of the next plenary sessions. We have a plan for reconversion, for new investments, for a radical change that could turn the desperate situation that we face at present into a great opportunity for future perspectives. A thorough and comprehensive plan could be designed and set forth as objective of the incoming Commission, backed by EU regional funding, where many goals at stake could be met at the same time: environment, health, economic reconversion, social cohesion, member states governance, human rights of the EU citizens, energy.

Taranto is a showcase for the challenge Europe is facing in addressing social cohesion and local governance problems in Member States. Like other towns in the South of Italy, already the object of a social cohesion challenge put forward by the last the Commission but not implemented by national and local authorities, Taranto could become a laboratory for the "third economic revolution" that is advancing in places of the world where renewable energy and new economic models are setting the pace.

The situation is very complicated and there will be no future in Taranto without help from the European Institutions.

We are ready to move forward, if You will accompany us.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti, Luciano Manna



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