

# CORRUPTION IS NOT AN INEVITABLE FATE BUT A CULTURAL DRESS

*"As soon as one entered in a free state one could expect to find fairness in negotiations and treaties, zeal for the common good in alliances, courage and perseverance in adversity, the liberality of the richest to the poorest in disasters, the energy of the people to repress injustice and violence.*

*In contrast when entering the states of tyrants, one found a government that was supported by crime, treachery and corruption [...]"*

*From "L'Età dei comuni" (The Age of the Municipalities) by D. Sismondi*

The anti-corruption law approved by the Parliament today finally puts an emphasis on prevention, a revolution in a country that, despite the lessons of Beccaria, resists the habit of inquisition and repression, rather than spending the best intellectual resources on educational ethics from the early years of life.

The law reflects a number of recommendations that have been indicated by GRECO and the OECD after in-depth analysis in each sector, as in the case of the offense of private sector corruption, very useful to detect crime and preliminary to the application of the protection of whistleblowers.

The white paper presented on November 22<sup>nd</sup> by Minister Patroni Griffi and Minister Severino examines with thoroughness and expertise the existing international conventions and the actions needed to try to change the cultural dress.

The World Bank tells us that an effective fight against corruption would result in an increased income of 2.4%. At a time of rising unemployment, it is more necessary than ever to create an environment of trust and freedom to engage in an innovative way. Maximally, the fight against corruption by reducing privileges and inequalities, could eventually lead to the selection by merit and encourage, even in Italy, that spirit of renewal so necessary for the best forces to find space to express themselves.

This law, if properly applied could get us through the Middle Ages that we are now living and into a new Renaissance. We agree with Laterne that the fight against corruption is a key element for a sustainable and enduring economic recovery.

But men and women make the changes, not only the laws, however perfect they may be. Therefore, we invite the Government and the Prime Minister to pay great attention to the group of people who will be chosen to give a qualitative leap to the Institute provided for the effective implementation of the law. It must be driven by a person with proven management skills, with an education or an international curriculum, capable of establishing a route and measurable objectives. It should be accompanied by a multifaceted working group, formed by competent and practical people who are familiar with the different areas where corruption can nest, who can skilfully search for antidotes and remove its causes with surgical precision. It must be able to communicate both with the bureaucratic system as well as with the business system and the social system, in order to summarize and prioritize. Without this last passage, the law will

become like the many other laws that not only are not applied but they are not even recognized by the citizens.

The prevention must also be accompanied by a system of constant communication on the objectives, and gradually on the results, as well as any deviations.

Transparency International Italy warmly thanks Prime Minister Monti and the Ministers responsible for the resolute support to this law that has dragged on for some time, as well as the Parliament that was able to comprehend that speed was a necessary condition in these difficult times, but THE WAY AHEAD IS STILL LONG AND WE MUST ALL DEVOTE TO THIS TOGETHER – CITIZENS, BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT - A LOT OF ENERGY TO ASCEND THE INTERNATIONAL INDICES THAT WEIGH SO MUCH ON COUNTRY RISK, ON THE SPREAD AND ON THE COMPETITIVENESS. THIS IS WHAT THESE TIMES AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE NEW GENERATIONS REQUIRES FROM US.

WHAT WE DO TODAY WILL PREVENT MANY YOUNG, CAPABLE AND PREPARED PEOPLE FROM SEARCHING IN OTHER COUNTRIES THE SUBSTRATE AND CIVIL CULTURE THAT THEY CAN NOT FIND IN ITALY, AND WHICH FORCES THEM TO CHOOSE OTHER COUNTRIES IN WHICH TO LIVE.