

FIRST SECTION

CITY SECURITY AS A LIFE QUALITY ELEMENT: NEW PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION

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As moderator of this first session, I wish to expose some considerations. The President of Tecnopolis has already introduced some considerations of great topical interest linked to technological development, necessity to integrate the security problems with those of good living, of legality. He supported, moreover, that the security problem in Puglia is not so serious to condition its development. Certainly Puglia does not have the endemic structural troubles other regions of our Country suffer, but it is crossing a delicate moment not only for endogenous factors, but also and above all for pressures from outside the territory.

Puglia border has turned out to be extremely permeable during the years, but I do not want to describe you what the arrival of thousand people has involved even if this exceptional event has not provoked something rotten on the territory.

The alterations instead have been generated by an organization of human beings traffic that has mainly affected eastern Europe women with a great increase of prostitution and by illegal tobaccos import.

The latter aspect, not only represents for Puglia that part in black of the economic activity included in the history of this region, but it has also introduced new elements and generated a wealth volume that, pouring into the territory, has altered the market of supply and demand, of the consumer goods, of the services, of the business activities and it has created above all an organization that today flows back into the common delinquent activities, as the cigarette traffic routes have changed.

Also the slave trade of human beings is going to be directed towards other routes and the wide landings that happen on the calabrian coasts rely on organizations that have always lived this way and that can be hardly reconverted into a legality system if the development does not increase, as the President of Tecnopolis asserted before.

The development increase is the key that can modify these structural elements that become deeply part of Puglia economy.

When we talk about "economy in Puglia" or that of the other regions we must recognise the fundamental role that cities assume. Puglia, for example, is deeply influenced by the city of Bari, a metropolis where every day approximately gravitate 500,000 people including both residents and those who come for working activities. The need is perceived therefore to agree on a model of safe city that can affect on the territory, creating this way a point of reference which other realities and social aggregates can conform to.

Today a safe city is not a patrolled city anymore, tightened in a police vice-like grip or militarized: those are partial effects, it is not the case of Bari or any other city of Puglia.

Bari has changed and such change has become true because, together with the other members of the security committee, we have modified the strategy of intervention.

We have not paralyzed the police forces anymore on maxi- investigations (of 4-500 people) that, because of their amplitude, concluded in an indefinable span of time and materialised

on uncertainty of trial times, due to management difficulty: we wanted instead a police "in the citizens' employ", as propagandized in an old slogan.

We put the wedge of the safe city, organising the forces in a way that the city is watched over, involving in this process the Municipal government and the Mayor of Bari, realising therefore a large symbiosis between State and local authority.

We have had the intention to test, then, a confrontation model, inside the security committee, two years before the law would introduce this modification at structural level. Together with the Mayor, we have thought about the fact that security does not exclusively interest small crimes, but it is the result of how a city is governed, of the citizens attitude regarding the institutions, of how to succeed in obtaining a certificate, of how to succeed in carrying on free activities in a social context influenced by a way of governing different from the one that has affected our Country for approximately fifty years, but that today has changed also in virtue of an electoral law that, introducing the direct election of the Mayor, has rendered the latter a point of reference for citizens.

This has been a great revolution, extended for the moment to the President of the Region, but that probably in the future will also involve the Prime Minister and the Head of State with the correct methodologies.

It is sure that the active presence of those who in that moment embody the collectivity needs has been an element that has strongly contributed to change the policy of security because, without the commitment of everyone, security it is not a reachable good. Then, no more repressive activities, but a balance of the authorities, an ability to govern with transparency the local authority that is the State, projected on the territory with the ordinary or residual competences and above all, subordinate to the strict citizens control.

It is not the time anymore in which the things can be done with the head under the sand: now the citizens are critical, there are great means of information, there is the press plurality that, even if it often exceeds, it is good that it is present in its pluralism, even if exasperated, because in this way no problem is hidden and everything comes publicly out, increasing the necessity of frankly competing. While today technologies help to realise many things, paradoxically men return to be mercenary knights. Everyone of us is responsible for what we do, we are visible and recognisable in our daily action: it can be asserted that it is the Member of the Regional Council, the Minister, the Parliamentarian, the President of Tecnopolis to have taken a certain decision and if we all together do not face this topic collaborating, we will hardly obtain the security as the final product. Certainly technology helps but, not to go against the tide, it does not constitute a miracle alone, it has to be placed at man's service within the limits to work out a certain type of action.

When I see pharaonic programmes, the great expenses, and then I do not see men's professionalism increase, the ability to manage these things, I am sceptical about the attainable results, since a topic cannot be entrusted to the machine because, in order to be adequately faced, it needs instead a greatest sensibility of its operators.

Technology must be placed at ordinary and extraordinary professional abilities' service, able to govern the means at their disposal.

Security is like a company in which, if there are not strong investments in the improvement of operators quality and in the instruments placed at their disposal, the final result is not achieved, that is the sales improvement. It follows that, if the budgets of the investments on

the topic of security or of policemen in the municipality are always equal to those of the previous year, it means that reforms are not acted, since innovations at zero cost are a mere invention in order to pull people's leg, that's what we do not surely want to do.

We have already said that it exists a link between the territory development and the safe city. In this scene of globalization, in fact, the democracy's increase, Europe creation, frontiers unity, currency unity, with the consequent attenuation of national ties, if on the one hand it has introduced elements of uncertainty in the economic activities (for example, I can have a company in Bari and see it compromised by the Stock Market in Tokio, just as I can realise a project in any part of Europe that a mechanism of enterprises coalition can embezzle), on the other hand it has also turned into a great mobility of economic interests on territories and Regions. The choices of the economic activities and those of entrepreneurs are then only determined by the "territory qualities" where this concept connects at the security level, to the ability to offer human resources that can carry on the development, at the presence of local governments able to offer immediate answers and regarding the demands coming from the economic world.

In Bari, as you know, some German societies made investments and, once they arrived, they have had licences in fifteen, twenty days. Probably the same demand, made by an Italian company, would not have had the same outcome, but the mirage of the foreigner who invests in Italy is so strong (above all German, to which is tied the image of organizational efficiency), that the settlement of great world-wide interest industries has been favoured.

As you could notice, the topic of security, more than subject-matter, becomes the every day humus of life, of district activity, a part of cities good living and it interests the economic development, being refracted then on the quality itself.

Through this way probably Southern Italy will succeed in breaking off also historically what was the difference between north and south. We have to change perspective and have not to watch at the Alps only: for a city like Bari, its culture and its history carry it to be a point of reference of such a wide basin that it is not only that of Europe, but also the one of Mediterranean, creating a hinge with the Balkan world.

So the local development does not show the differences north-south, but the ability of those who live in these territories to create the conditions for the development.

We have to create the conditions to make cities change in a radical sense. It is emblematic, from this point of view, the intervention on the Ancient Village of the city of Bari. Four years ago, when I arrived in this city as Prefect, there was already the Urban project for the requalification of the Ancient Village. This project had started with much scepticism; we have created the necessary conditions so that this ancient city changed and the change was radical.

The starting point has been just the security: when I arrived, the Ancient Village was characterised by a strong "presence" of some historical names of the local gangsterism. We have intentionally broken off this wire, also with a romantic touch, of "the boss is Tom and Dick", just as if the sense of belonging to a gang gave also political dignity to the citizens ("I belong to Tom").

We have therefore disarticulated without respite the gangs and the delinquent organizations, removing substantially pressing activities on the village and the ancient city. When the old "names" have been replaced by the new ones, we have not stopped, because this

phenomenon is like the sea wave that is always refracted on the same shore: the most important thing is to be good navigators. We have created a great structure of security in the most emblematic square, a police garrison, just like saying: "gentlemen, this territory does not belong to you, it belongs to all the citizens of Bari, it belongs to the State, everyone of us has a paternity right, it is not the road of Tom or Dick, where Tom or Dick commands".

Then the development has come into play, the roads have changed, the old incrustations have been removed, a beautifulst urban network has been done: this part of the city has become an agglomerate, point of reference and aspirations of young people who want to grow and of a regular territory development.

Great merit has had the local government, that has garrisoned the territory with its Municipal policemen, it has granted licences to those who wanted to undertake initiatives. Recreating this concept of city the ancient city has become, also statistically, the safer point of Bari.

On such a field the challenge in the European context is played, because the great movement of men, capitals and cultures stops just where there are conditions that propose to man the sense of challenge to the things around him.

A final consideration about the introduction of technological means for security. It is hard trying to find an equilibrium between the individual security and freedoms and the right to privacy, but I think that the primary good of the freedom in democracy, in the associations, in every day life is a good that certainly we must defend by means of security, but also by a civic conscience, that puts man at the centre of its development and gives him back his own life.