

Bologna, 11 January 2019

Dear comrades of Diem25 and the Electoral Wing,

Thank you very much on behalf of „Emilia-Romagna Coraggiosa“ for your letter and the interest shown in our project, as well as for your willingness to confront each other on the merit and to face together this exciting electoral challenge.

As you know, I have been following Diem25 with great interest since its foundation and there have been countless opportunities to discuss and share important battles at European, national and local level. Since the beautiful initiative "Il tempo del coraggio" in 2016, to when I participated as an observer in the work of your European Spring coordination both in Paris and Berlin, to the common efforts to try to build in Italy an ecological, progressive and feminist project that would give representation to the "third space" in view of the past Europeans - which unfortunately, due to the prevalence of identity logic and personalism, we have not been able to do.

Without having in the least abandoned the persuasion that in order to react to the advancing International of nationalists we must build a transnational, ecologist and progressive front together, without ambiguity about neoliberal policies but not even about nationalism, today we find ourselves engaged on a different but equally sensitive front.

On January the 26th we shall vote in Emilia-Romagna, the region that for me has been home for 15 years. It was neither an easy nor an obvious choice to put ourselves at stake in this challenge.

„Emilia-Romagna Coraggiosa“ was born with a double ambition: to contribute to curb the advance of a nationalist and reactionary right, and to be able to influence the future policies of the region. We have spent many weeks to travelling around all the territories to gather critical points and ideas and build a shared vision of the future of this region. If we have chosen this name, „Courageous“, it is because Emilia-Romagna has already shown courage in other historical moments: during II WW by the Partisans' Resistance against nazism, and just after the II WW by raising from an extremely difficult condition and becoming, from many points of view, a cutting-edge region in Europe.

Today, new courage is needed to face the great challenges on which our future is at stake: the climate emergency and the social emergency,

inextricably linked. This is an awareness we share, because, as you well say, "there can be no climate justice without social justice".

That's why we built a series of concrete proposals that we brought to Stefano Bonaccini's table to discuss them and find a synthesis, before deciding to support his re-application as a President for Emilia-Romagna.

I was very happy, in reading your letter and the Green New Deal declined for our region, to see that once again we are very much aligned in objectives and proposals. In fact, we have proposed an ambitious Climate Pact, which Bonaccini has made his own, following the model of what New Zealand is doing (a distant country but with GDP and population figures similar to those of our region). A Pact that aims to zero climate change emissions by 2050 and to reach 100% renewable sources by 2035.

In the Climate Pact we have set out a number of necessary measures, many of which follow the points you have proposed. A Green New Deal of investments to accompany the needed ecological and energy transition, as well as the conversion of production. Reforestation for 4.5 billion new trees, to reduce emissions and make our soil more resilient. Energy efficiency for all public facilities and photovoltaic systems. Encouraging the creation of energy communities in municipalities to exchange clean energy and free ourselves from dependence on fossil fuels, which, as you know, is also a democratic issue, because of its geopolitical implications.

We too, and in particular our regional councillors (applying for a second mandate), have expressed strong doubts about some of the infrastructural choices made by the regional government in recent years - years in which the regional government has invested almost exclusively in new motorways and roads. Therefore, we strongly call for a change of route, investing in strengthening the local public transport network and railways, with particular attention to the routes already frequented by commuters, the need to shift freight traffic from road to iron (the first source of air pollution in the region even according to ARPA data), and intermodality. Not only to strengthen public transport for all, but to make it free for young people up to the age of 25, with an estimated investment of about 25-30 million. A way to invest in the sustainable mobility of a segment of the population that has already shown a high sensitivity to the climate emergency, but also to help families by relieving them of costs that are challenging.

Alongside this, we need to invest in sustainable agriculture, in the circular

economy, in the reduction of waste production and more effective waste disposal by making recovery, reuse and recycling a priority. Like for you, it is important for us to ensure animal welfare.

Our regional councillors have also opposed the new town planning law, which we are calling for to be amended in order to make the objective of zero land consumption really effective, avoiding derogations on derogations that risk frustrating the aims of the law and instead investing in urban regeneration and re-development, another element on which you rightly insist. Within the Climate Pact, we are also proposing a major plan against hydrogeological instability that is capable of providing opportunities for decent work in the care of the land, riverbeds and embankments, aware that in the face of the fragility shown by our region to increasingly extreme weather events, acting in prevention costs far less than reacting to emergencies on a case-by-case basis.

We will also pay particular attention to inland and mountain areas, because access to public services such as health and mobility cannot depend on how far our home is from the large urban centres of the Via Emilia. We must combat the abandonment and depopulation of these lands, which often also means less resilience to climate change.

The programme of Emilia-Romagna Coraggiosa holds together ecological transition and the fight against inequalities. That is why, alongside the Climate Pact, we are calling for the renewal of the Labour Pact signed by the Emilia-Romagna region in 2015, combating precarious employment and the corporatist, combating the procurement of mere labour and forced part-time work as well as the exploitation of labour.

Another point that we share is the fight against gender inequalities: this is a question of rights, but also an economic issue. The region can do a lot on policies to reconcile life and work, as well as on the fight against gender discrimination (while the right in Forlì decides to do the opposite) and on support for the network of anti-violence centres and shelters. We also fight discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and we want, like you, a full implementation of the new law against homophobia.

In addition, we have proposed and shared with Bonaccini an extensive Plan for the housing with the triple aim of supporting those who can no longer pay their mortgage and risk losing it, intervening to reduce the number of vacant private houses also through instruments to be relaunched and innovated such

as cooperatives of undivided ownership, and investing in both social housing and social housing in order to give an already complete response to the right to housing and to avoid the social tensions on which the Right rides.

We also share your attention to the issue of the right to study, and we support the request of the Network of Middle and University Students to make a new law on the right to study since the current one dates back to 2007 and the situation has profoundly changed.

On the issue of differentiated autonomy, we ask you to rethink it, because even though we do not have an a priori position against it, there are many aspects that concern us:

The third paragraph of Article 116 cannot in any way become the way to create new regions with special status or to implement a disguised form of secessionism. In this debate, the Emilia-Romagna region must take a different position from the Veneto and Lombardy regions and place itself in a cooperative and solidarity-based regionalism. However, there are essential knots

unresolved which require a prior response so as not to jeopardise national unity by creating unacceptable disparities between territories and access to rights for all citizens.

In order to prevent this from happening, the implementation of the 116 can only take place after determining the Essential Levels of Performance, standard requirements, coordination with Law 42 of 2009 on fiscal federalism and after approving a framework law that sets out the strict limits within which regional legislation must move, placing the vote of Parliament at the centre of decisions, since the exercise of essential functions such as health, education and the environment cannot be left to the free interpretation of the regions because this would jeopardise national unity and the fundamental rights of all citizens.

As you see, there are many similarities between your proposals and the brave Emilia-Romagna programme, to which your Green New Deal can provide valuable additions. We would be very happy if you would decide to continue along this path with us, helping to stop the nationalist right but also conditioning the future policies of the region.

To do so, we hope to elect with your support a number of councillors decisive

for the new balance of the majority, in the hope of a clear affirmation of the coalition that supports Stefano Bonaccini.

Of course, dear friends, it is clear that what we are trying to do in this challenge is not yet the third space for which we must continue to fight both at European and national level. Here we are moving within a coalition with some forces with which we have had important moments of rupture for some government choices both at the national level (think of JobsAct, the constitutional reform then foiled, the Sblocca Italia, the policy on Libya and migration) and at the regional level. We believe that this gives even greater value to our choice today to stay within this coalition and support Bonaccini. But we will not take ourselves for granted. We are here to write a different page in the future of Emilia-Romagna. Convinced that here we have all the conditions to lead the ecological change that the country needs, eliminating inequalities. Because there is an extraordinarily lively and dynamic social fabric, a tradition of important innovation, but also a consolidated dialogue between all the social partners.

These are ideal conditions to ground the Green New Deal and build innovative practices and then share them with other territories. If, as I hope, we are decisive for victory, it is clear that this will also give an important signal at national level.

You, together with Yanis, can make a valuable contribution to this challenge that calls us all to a responsibility and a choice of field. Of course, there are those on the left who will make different, legitimate choices, but we do not want to resign ourselves to the idea of not being able to condition the new balance. We want to challenge the other progressive and environmentalist forces not only to stop the nationalist right, but to find the courage that has been lacking in recent years, leaving aside any ambiguity. If we commit ourselves together, between now and 26 January, many and many will be passionate about this vision of the future and will choose, with us, courage.

I embrace you, Elly Schlein