

Transnational parties: what future?

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A Response to Benjamin Zyla

- Author of the article "European Party jungle.. Trans-national parties: a European Meander?" published in Politikon-Ist Issue-

In the first issue of this journal, Benjamin Zyla, which I consider a good debate-friend of mine, launched a question that I can not leave it unanswered.

Are European Parties Trans-national parties? He promptly answered to this question with "NO", giving his reasons and explaining that European Parties can not be parties in the "conventional" sense cause :

In this article:

- *A Response to Benjamin Zyla*
- *Are "EU parties" parties?*
- *The Globalisation process: New Demands and the change in the political system.*
- *The International Institutions*
- *The need for Trans-national parties*
- *Trans-national party and the Global Governance*

- 1) they do not fulfil one of the Weberian criteria (methodological, abstract criteria) to recognise a party
- 2) they do not have a milieu where supporters and voters have grown up
- 3) they do not recruit their political personal from the EU but from national levels, following national parties and national political interests.

Moreover Mr.Zyla stressed that the point that EU parties do not for a government but they have only a consultative status.

In this way EU parties become only "Interest associations of people, but also of companies, other interest groups, scientific staff and so on. But they are not parties in the original sense"

And again, "EU parties are parties of clients, but not parties of a huge amount of members".

I dear say: wow!

Mr.Zyla started trying to understand whether EU parties are Trans-national parties and ended up concluding that EU parties are not even parties "in the original sense".

Wow!

Are "EU parties" parties?

I am fine with the explanation given by Mr Zyla and I think that there is something true in what he said.

EU parties are not parties YET, but they will be when the EU reform (asked by several members) will be implemented.

Still, consensus is missing, recruitment at an European level also and moreover EU parties (like the European

Popular party) are only aggregate of national parties.

This is not how the system works, and European members of Parliament know it.

EU parties must be reformed starting becoming real parties, proposing political programmes and then trying to start an Europeanisation of their queries, of their programme, of their interests.

Now, it seems that EU parties are only good final resources for national interests.

Before leaving peculiar topic anyway I would like to write the last small comment on Mr Zyla's article.

Mr Zyla, according to me, mistaken the basic assumption of the debate. He said: EU parties can not be Trans-national parties cause they are not even parties.

I would suggest to change the basic assumption (and from now I will use this new assumption:

- 1) European parties are not parties but they will when the EU gains a political identity.
- 2) Trans-national parties are globalise parties.

Since the first point has already been discussed, we will go on the second point presenting a

general background first.

The Globalisation process:

New Demands and the change in the political system

This second assumption is today very important.

Globalisation of cultures, markets and so on is taking place world wide, nowadays.

Someone fights this process, someone else debates on it, some try to understand it.

We live in a globalise Western world which is going to diversificate people queries in one hand but which is going to concentrate all the protest movements on the other hand.

We therefore have different levels to be discussed by politicians in according with the Civil Society, the business world and the international institutions

Political parties did not fit in this new reality yet.

They did not react to Seattle protesters, to the decisions of International organisation or to the reform of the United Nations.

They do not have a well structured political response yet. Events run very fast and political bureaucratic parties could not find space for understanding what was happening.

Right now, they are behaving like historians: They let the events happen, they write on them and then, finally, they study them.

Most parties today are not able to follow the different queries coming from all over the world: digital divide, environmental problems, direct democracy, Eco-capitalism, New Economy, Internet society, Global governance, future of economy, debts of the third

world; Globalisation, in short.

Why they did not react? Because they have never happened to find themselves in this problem and they have never gained the necessary experience to handle these demanding.

National levels were enough....Why loosing time with Inter and Supra- national queries?

But nowadays, today's world requires new politics and new politics can be implemented neither by European parties nor by National based parties.

We need new political subjects.

The International Institutions

At the basic of the need for Trans-national parties there is the today situation of the Kaos surrounding international organisations.

NATO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, WTO, and a lot more- including the UN reform- are today accused not to be democratic and not to respect other than business companies interests and multinationals needs.

The Seattle Movement, that I would call a "Say No" Movement cause is more abrogative than propositive, put new queries in the table and nobody risks to deny the importance to have a constructive dialog with this new platform cause they are strong.

They are strong, and in some way, Trans-national.

They can be the pre-movement in fieri that can bring us to Trans-national parties; but first they need to get rid of Marxism, Catholicism and left wings radicalism.

International institutions are today a huge effort of governments to create a global governance, where Trans-national interests can be decided at International levels.

What is wrong today is that, whether in one hand there is the willingness for Trans-national politics, on the other hand instead they do not risk to loose sovereignty.

International institutions are the proto governments of the future, but they are still uncompleted.

Indeed they are bureaucratic, concerning the organisational structure and national-interest-based, concerning the best practices.

Moreover, Multinational companies rule these organisations making this world cynical and a-solidaristic.

The need for Trans-national parties

Therefore, we arrive at the basic part of this essay: the need for Trans-national parties.

This long introduction was necessary to explain my ideas to the extend of a new system based on multiple choices and different political systems.

We have to go back to the general assumption made above: Trans-national parties are globalise parties; and we have to demonstrate it.

Moreover we need a definition of Trans-national party, the background in which Trans-national party can be fixed and their future role in the civil society.

A definition:

Mr Zyla, in his article, defined Trans-national parties as follow:

"Parties that do not focus only on the domestic politics, but further on, focus on the international political market

(the Market of political ideas on supra-national level).

Parties run on the Trans-national level for elections, recruiting elites and try to aggregate the will of people".

I like this definition very much, but I guess something is missing or, maybe, something is added that shall not be taken into consideration right now: the focus on domestic politics.

This is something that today's parties already do and to limit the idea of Trans-national parties on the capacity to focus on national and supra-national level is absurd.

Instead, the idea to let Trans-national parties recruit elites, participate at supranational level to elections and articulate the will of people, is definitely right.

This is one of the goals for all parties categories and I think a Trans-national party shall do that.

So the point I do not agree with is the focus on domestic politics.

What kind of party, indeed, could be coherent with its politics intra and extra nation?

How to reconcile the interest on national economy and the new one on European level?

How to solve the infrastructure problem of a country starting from the International arena?

These and much more are the problems that we can encounter speaking about one organisation(a party) for both national and international level.

So far, this kind of System already works with the Radical party or the International Socialist organisations.

But this is not what I mean; I foresee a system where national parties serve only to national (and above all local) interests not entering the international queries that have to be faced, instead, by elites elected by all citizens. Of the world, using the Internet system and with the interaction of civil society, business companies, trans-national parties, customers organisations and international governments- the United Nations.

A renewed form of corporativism, get rid of fascist ideas and free from totalitarian aspects of life.

Consociativism mixed to corporativism helped by the Internet in order to be efficient and quick.

Trans-national parties must be actors of the decisional system and they would be the consultants, the experienced bodies.

So, giving a definition:

A Trans-national party is a party that articulate and aggregate interests, wills and political views at an international level, participating of the interaction with other forms of active politics; parties which elects the Global government during International elections.

Trans-national party and the Global Governance

The only organisation that can be reformed towards a Trans-national party system is the United Nation which government will be elected by citizens of the world in International campaigns and where the first actor to choose elites and candidates are Trans-national parties.