EU POLITICS DURING THE PANDEMIC

In these weeks of emergency, with all the states committed to combating Covid-19, a crisis that was certainly unexpected and that has upset everyone, it seems so far away to talk about the future of the EU. The pandemic has multiplied the different points of view on what is and what will be of the European Union, today those borders that were places of exchange and meeting seem insuperable limits. That covid-19 should represent a crucial challenge, the results of which will have long-lasting impact is now evident. The European institutions have proposed significant solutions but, as it often happens, have also obstacles to face on the part of individual states in adopting a common policy. One of the great problems of the Union is this: to make the heterogeneity of our cultures a strength and not a way to divide us. Indeed, even before Brexit itself, the difficulties that the EU was encountering were evident, both in outlining its global role and in managing the confrontation between member states. The wounds of the 2008 economic crisis are still evident, not so much on the political level but particularly on the social level, large parts of the continent have not recovered yet. The emergence of nationalist and sovereign movements due to the crisis and other issues that have appeared recently, from uncontrolled migration to Brexit, from jihadist fundamentalism to tensions with Russia, have highlighted the limits of the Union in being a single and cohesive collective, capable of planning and implementing a community political project.

However, the EU has all the opportunities and potential to take on a leading role globally on countless fronts: from the economy to the defence, from culture to new technologies. The crisis due to the Coronavirus must be a point from which to relaunch, from which to start all over anew with the aim of a more modern Europe that has left the difficulties of recent years behind.

In order to take a look at a different future, it therefore seems essential to address the issue of how Europe should rediscover an international project and a new internal unity. The Union faces many problems, but the debate that often interests it, even in Italy, is affected by a partial vision that does not take into account the vastness of its action and its competences and also the complexity of its structure, which is not a monolith immobile and immutable. Today it is essential to redefine its role and its project and to better understand how the world that will be even after the Coronavirus can advance.