Il Volantino Europeo

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Bonne Année 2017! Happy New Year! Buon Anno! Boldog Uj Evet! Glückliches Neujahr! E glëckliches nëies! Un an nou fericit! С Новым Годом! Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! Pace e salute!

In this very dark December 2016, it's actually difficult to find out which are the appropriate wishes for the seasons greetings. On the other hand, the period in which we are living now shows how personal wishes can suddenly be influenced by politics events all over the world. As certain people said, we are in a state of war, but we notice it mainly in our daily life through the Medias. This is of course completely different for the victims and their families and friends.

All the recent tragic events - here and there - show also how Democracy can be quickly threatened and destabilized. And it seems that the security measures are always insufficient. But it seems also that the police services in Europe have failed in diverse situations. Aren't they yet ready to fight the new enemies of our societies? How can we imagine that there were probably neglecting in many situations?

In France, we are submitted to the "état d'urgence" (emergency state) at least until July 2017, and many people criticize it, saying that it won't help at all to prevent attacks. Less freedom but not more safety... About or country, the famous journalist Jacques Julliard wrote that the recent success of the conservative leader François Fillon lead to a decreasing of 4 points of the vote intentions for Marine Le Pen: "More efficient than thirty years of antifascist imprecations!" (in Marianne, December 16-22). In Germany, the Chancellor Angela Merkel was proud about the wise reaction of people, but an editorialist asked a question about "the cost of humanity" (in Süddeutsche Zeitung, December 22.). Closer to us, our good friend and colleague Georges-Yoram Federmann invites us to keep our "ability and our will to embody the hospitality" (mailing, December 22.).

Meanwhile this article was written, the official information arrived that the suspect of the Berlin attack has been killed by the Italian police close to Milano.

To conclude, let's just come back to our plans for the next meeting in Budapest, "A couch on the Danube": from 23. to 26. May 2017, because of big reconstruction works at the French Institute, it will take place entirely at the Italian Institute (IIC) in Budapest. Best thanks to Gianluca Borghese, the Director, who immediately answered in a positive way to our request. Further information on the Congress will be given in the next Volantino, expected in January.

Last but least, the Editorial Board of the Volantino and all the team of the "Couch on the Danube" wish you all the best for 2017, especially for peace in the world, here and there.

Contact: piotr-tchaadaev@wanadoo.fr