

Brexit confronts European leaders to seriously consider genuine European direct democracy

MAY joins Corbyn! Could this announce the end of European democracy and the beginning of a new direct European democracy?

As the capitulation of France in 1940 will irreparably divide the French and leave scars still open to this day, we have the impression that, very quickly, the discussions between May and Corbyn on the future of Great Britain could provoke the same symptoms.

Even if comparison is not an exact science, leaders such as Ms. May or Mr. Corbyn are probably looking for the best for their country. However, such alliances, agreements or treaties can only work with the sense of compromise resulting from direct democracy, as is the case in Switzerland!

It is very likely that the English and the Europeans will realize that the right to elect does not give them any right to vote. When they elect representatives who no longer suit them or exceed their mandates, they do not have the tools of direct democracy to control them. Without these tools you end up in situations like you have today in the UK where your trusted friend, the one you elected, joins your worst enemy to negotiate and nothing can't be done about it.

Another example is France where citizen have been electing default presidents for several quinquennials, legitimized more by the fear of extremes than by the candidate's charisma. Such choices would never happen in Switzerland.

Let's bet that European and British citizens will wake up one day. Because we believe that the true claim of yellow vests in France, is to have a real right to vote. Let us remember that in the EU several referendums have polled citizens for their opinion on the European question. These polls all concluded with the symptomatic dislike of citizens for a political Europe, but this message was never heard by their leaders.

Dear European peoples, take a look at the Swiss model and take advantage of long-lasting experience of direct democracy and see how it works! To try is to adopt it.

Do not believe what the intellectuals are telling you, namely that direct democracy would not work because some voting topics are too complicated for the EU citizens or large countries. Who has the right to judge that? At home, our farmers vote on complex financial issues and our bankers decide on the necessity to cut the horns of cows! The right speaks to the left without offending anyone. If we want to challenge the way of

governing, we can resort to the popular vote, and our politicians respect that. We do not need yellow jackets, nor show our anger by vandalizing the public spaces.

Because our politicians know that the Swiss people can vote at any time, on any subject, and punish any desire to betray his aspirations! This fundamental right cannot be exercised in France or Great Britain.

Here we fight with initiatives and referendums and leave aside weapons or yellow vests. We will defend our direct democracy so that it continues through future generations and that this right is never abrogated.

Antoine Spillmann
Member of the SwissRespect committee