



Press Release 3rd May 2006

Just when everything seemed to have been decided about Milan's local government elections – since “one of the two” will obviously win and the general feeling is that there is not much choosing to be done – at the last moment 46 people present an independent list running for mayor. All 46 of them together.

Because things can still change, even though many people think, mistakenly, that everything has been arranged and nothing can be done about it. Because politics is something that has to do with everyone, that concerns each and every citizen without exception, and **it's for the citizens to decide what is going to happen.**

This is the basic idea behind “*Questa è una città*”, a list that has not been just thrown together artificially for these elections, but is the potential continuation of 11 years of exploration in utopian practise carried out in this city, and which now chooses to express itself in an electoral platform.

Because “*Questa è una città*” is a project which the *esterni* group, active in Milan since 1995, will continue to carry out together with its other projects, whatever happens.

“*Questa è una città*” is a list made up of 46 Mayors, none of whom would ever have run for election on their own. But who now do so as part of a collective identity that shares the same vision of the situation. A group that is aware that governing means taking on precise personal responsibilities. **And that puts forward the idea of a city that belongs to everyone and is not run by a few people, lobbies and corporations.**

“*Questa è una città*” believes that Milan should not be a battleground between national political movements and their followers, nor a stadium where left and right compete to find a winner. On the contrary, it is convinced that the city needs a project that comes from, and is dedicated to, a community – for all its differences and contradictions – and comes from a new way of looking at things: **a change of perspective** that affects every level, but also a kind of emergency exit from a difficult situation of stagnation which can only be resolved through a radical change in the concept of politics.



“*Questa è una città*” is an independent list, and it’s no coincidence that there are no professional politicians in its ranks, perhaps because politics should be sentiment, observation, sensitivity, desire for action.

A list that gathers together people who share the dream of changing the city, are convinced that this is a dream that can come true, and that it can be supported by a large part of the population.

“*Questa è una città*” is a magnetic pole that will attract thousands of people, all those groups and associations which converge in the philosophy and practise of encounter and exchange. Which have a different vision of the city as a whole.

Governing the city

“*Questa è una città*” is quite capable of governing. It is running in Milan’s local government elections in order to win, and victory will mean the beginning of change.

The objective is not to take part in the elections so as to win a few seats on the city council, **but to govern in order to give the city a new direction, begin on a new path, change mentalities and methods, set up a long term project that will really be for the good of the city.** Certainly not to govern as a way of embarking on a conventional political career, but rather to establish an idea of politics that is different from the traditional one, that follows a different road and uses different arguments.

Governing means making the city return to being a community and making it develop around shared ideas and actions. It means having a broader and more continuous participation of all citizens both as its starting point and its objective. It means listening, observing, studying. And doing, doing, even at the cost of taking risks. This is concretely demonstrated by the programme, which concerns every aspect of the city’s life and contains **over 120 specific projects that will be presented to all the citizens** in the May 3rd press conference, and subsequently during an electoral campaign that will reach out to the whole city.