

Eppur si muove?
Italy 2008:
Making sense of Italy's next general political
Debate on Italian general election,
1st April 2008

The London based think tank Demos and the Italian think tank Vision are hosting a debate on the next Italian general election due to take place in April 2008.

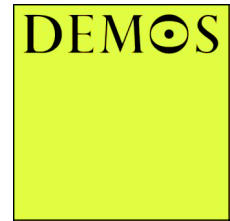
Is Italian politics all about drama, or is there more to it? Commentators have often argued that Italian politics may seem confused and for many, non-sensical, however they have also argued that Italy's politics is somehow a laboratory for politics – inventing and re-inventing itself. Its anomalous nature is one of the reasons why year after year, Italian politics continues to be of interest to political scientists and international media and audiences alike.

To the casual observer, the famous words from Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's , *Il Gattopardo*, still resonate: “everything seems to change, yet in fact everything stays the same”. And yet we are seeing emerging change coming from both sides of the political spectrum. New faces – particularly young people and women – are joining both parties and are starting to replace the old guard; the political programmes are pushing for change, despite resistances from the many lobby groups in the country.

Perhaps change is indeed looming – as Galileo Galilei remarked while watching the slow movements of the chandelier in the Dome of Pisa, ‘eppur si muove’ (and yet it moves).

The high level seminar at Demos will question whether this change is happening and whether it matters – and before the elections, it will try to make sense of it all. What is new? What is changing – if anything? And what will be the key, make-or-break issues?

The seminar will shed light on the new bipartisan political context in Italy ahead of the 13-14 April general elections. It will provide a commentary and a context, a platform for discussion on the main issues.



The seminar will gather together 40-50 experts of Italian politics, Italian, British and international media and those who want to better understand unfolding events in Italy. The event will take place on **1st April**, at Demos, third floor, 136 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TU, 14pm until 16pm.

Speakers:

John Peet (Chair), Europe Editor, The Economist (confirmed)

Sandro Gozi; Margherita MP and MP candidate for the PD; Chairman Schengen Commission of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (confirmed);

Nicola Rossi; DS MP and MP candidate for the PD; economic adviser to Walter Veltroni; Phd LSE and Professor of Economics; (confirmed);

Raffaele Fantetti; MP candidate for the PdL; (confirmed);

Guglielmo Picchi; Forza Italia MP and MP candidate for the PdL; MBA Bocconi (confirmed);

Franco Frattini; MP candidate for the PdL; previous Foreign Ministry Berlusconi Government; EC deputy President and European Commissioner for justice, security and freedom; (to be confirmed).