

ENRICO LETTA

Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris, former Prime Minister of Italy

Steven ERLANGER

Enrico Letta, former Prime Minister of Italy, now in Paris as Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po. I hope he can get above nationalism and tell us really what is straining Europe in your view and what matters most. What needs to be fixed most?

Enrico LETTA

I think it was very good to have this session, Thierry, immediately after Kevin's session on China because I guess at the end of the day, our takes on Europe as *puissance*, as Hubert said, can only be shaped in the discussion about the relationship with China and the US. In the new world in which G2 is taking place there is a new topic for Europe and the new topic is being together. The alternative, the other option is having just a choice in 10-years' time to be singularly an American colony or a Chinese colony. That is the big topic and there is no other discussion on that. I think it is the main point today with 28 Brexits the choice would be only for each our countries to be an American colony or a Chinese colony. I think Brexit was the UK's idea to be the 51st American state in the next century, or something like that.

I think Europe can be a third superpower, only by being united and taking leadership on two main subjects, which are subjects for the future. The two main subjects for the future are climate change, we had a terrific panel on that this morning, and the second one is technological humanism, if I may say. Technological humanism means we have lost the technological competition on mobiles or other things, but we are the only part of the world, the only continent in the world that is able to take leadership on how to have good regulation, how to protect people's rights. It was very good this morning when we had this point about ownership of data: corporations in the US, the state in China and people in Europe. At the end of the day, that is the true difference and that allows to think about having leadership on that. I think we have to develop this point and take this leadership. For me, these two are the main subjects for the future. I think that Ursula von der Leyen had a good choice having some competencies for the Vice President of the Commission having these two subjects at the very top of the list with Vestager and Timmermans on these two topics.

There is a 'but' in this whole discussion, which is the fact that everything can be completely overwhelmed by the present Turkish situation. I say that because I remember how the previous migration crisis arose and it was with the Syrian crisis. We underestimated the consequences of the mismanagement of the Syrian crisis and we had one million people and a complete political disaster with all the consequences we know. I think that Brexit was also partially because of the images of the Calais Jungle, Cologne, the Italian situation because of that and then AfD in Germany and Vox in Spain, etc. My final point, Steven, is that I am really worried about what is happening because there are two topics. One is Erdogan's threats.

Steven ERLANGER

His threats to open the door, that is the point.

Enrico LETTA

Of course. The second one is that if the war continues, we will have Kurdish immigrants and for us, the Europeans, that will be without enough new rules... We had two crises, the financial crisis and the migration crisis. For the financial crisis we fixed the roof, partially, but we fixed it, we created the DSM and we had many new tools. For the migration



crisis the situation today is the same as it was five years ago, six years ago, we do not have tools. My final point is that I hope we will be able to face these threats, these threats can be a disaster for Europe in the next months. I also think that on this migration crisis we need to have new emergency tools and not to look at ones that are business as usual because they do not work.