

Hidden debt and fragile banks, Germany also risks collapsing

Fabio Zoffi, Italian who lives in Monaco: "From 2020 the state accounts will go for pensions and health"

The great patient in the Eurozone is not Italy or another peripheral country, apostrophe "pigs" ("pigs") in the midst of the sovereign debt crisis, but precisely Germany of Angela Merkel who continues to make her voice heard with the ECB and other condominiums of the Old Continent.



To report to the Giornale the "dark side" of Berlin is Fabio Zoffi, Venetian who has lived with his family in Munich for twenty years and owner of activities ranging from food to Big data: among his customers are Luxottica, Pirelli, Bnl, Banco Popolare and Benetton.

"The overall German public debt is not equal to 80% of the GDP as official documents certify but 287%", assures the Italian venture capitalist after taking the trouble to rework tables and statistical projections. The fault lies with the "implicit" debt, which we can roughly define here as "hidden", produced by the costly reforms granted by the governments that have followed one another in the last decades. All this will lead, from 2020, to heavy burdens on spending on pensions, health insurance and assistance to chronically ill patients. "Berlin has so far been very good at hiding the dust under the carpet, but now it is impossible not to see the humps and even in Germany the most capable economists have started to sound the alarm", explains Zoffi, citing among the first prophets of misfortune the presidents of the two largest economic think tanks in the country: Hans-Werner Sinn, the much feared voice of the IFO (actually better known south of the Alpine chain for the trenchant judgments it has reserved for us) and Marcel Fratzscher, head of the DIW and author of the book Die Deutschland-Illusion ("The German illusion"). By way of comparison, the overall Italian debt (implicit and explicit) would amount to 160% of the gross domestic product. Basically, in recent years Palazzo Chigi and the Italian Parliament have done their homework, Frau Merkel and the Bundestag haven't. To contribute to the announced disaster of Germany, insists Zoffi, is then his imbalanced demographic picture. It is the state with the least births in the world.

The other obvious flaw is represented by a labour market now made up for a quarter of temporary workers (including part-time, interns and mini-jobs), because it results in an increasingly unbalanced income distribution: in 2011 10% of the population held 66% of wealth against 44% in 1970.

Not to mention the problems of the credit system: the German banks, although all promoted to the recent asset reviews of the ECB (but Berlin has obtained to exempt the problematic savings banks and the land banks) on one hand, "count overall debts (customer deposits , loans of various kinds and bonds, ed.) for 8 thousand billion euros "on the other, and this appears to be the main problem," loans in assets of often questionable quality: Abs, derivatives, loans to Greek and Spanish banks ". In practice they would have invested badly (and with a certain dose of danger) the money raised: "Deutsche Bank looks like a large hedge fund", launches the provocation Zoffi. The entrepreneur is keen to emphasize that he has returned to investing in the companies of the boot at the height of the crisis, taking advantage of the balances caused by the booming spread. In short, as a businessman he is convinced he has done well to believe in Italy: he estimates that his activities (the ORS Group specializing in big data; the wine estate in Monferrato Noceto Michelotti and the Friulan company of Bertolini Wild sausages, together with the development potential of the Gourmitaly portal) today have a potential value of 50 million. Germany - said Zoffi - remains, however, an example for the Peninsula in many other fundamental aspects both for the quality of life of citizens and for the success of a company: starting from a public-bureaucratic system and from a justice system that they work properly.

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