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Ressort: Politik

## The Presidency of the Council and the cost of politics

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The Presidency of the Council, like many other areas of government, supports various costs for its management. In the general framework of economic austerity and rigor that exists and is required by the health of the Italian state, the streamlining of costs and scaling of the counts of Palazzo Chigi

This is a button very sensitive and often confidential, becomes a priority without delay is the time . Optimization measures and cost savings are important at this time to address than the internal budget of the Italian state for countering stalled economies and European Union to align its policies. The accounts of the Palazzo Chigi, in fact, was stolen from the powers of the Treasury Department, through a decree in 1999, fearing reasons related to the status of full autonomy financial instrument that was legitimate and enjoyed by the Quirinale, the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

The trend, unfortunately, is that from 1999 to 2010 the expenses of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, are incredibly increased up to double, in fact, the nearly 350 billion lire in 1999 became the nearly 500 million today with a net increased by more than 115%. The first year of independent accounting, in 2000, he suffered an increase in expenditures of about 30%, only the travel of the Prime Minister had an incidence increase of 5 times greater and the more than 900 million pounds reached the considerable sum 5 billion.

In 2002, a Constitutional Court ruling, handed to the Court of Auditors, management and accounting responsibilities of the Presidency of Palazzo Chigi tenant, did not produce such a return, however, no positive effect and not relaunched and no reversal of economic containment . Since then it has saved the face but nothing has changed and the substance remains the same, the costs are always increased and the economic figures with a few billion, you have no control substantial budgets in the state.

The autonomy of the management of their accounts was then over the years and claimed more and more used as a cascading effect, all other organs of state, ministers without portfolio or Civil Defense, just to name a few, with the excuse need of emergency or extraordinary measures. A "free zone" where you can include appropriations of various kinds and several million euros for publishing 374 million euros, 26 for the enhancement and promotion of local disadvantaged areas ..., 3 million for the championships of volleyball in 2010, 2 million for track cycling in 2012, 8 million for drugs policy, 81 for the Fund for

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Youth, 44 for the mountains.

But there are rumors of "minor", even more vague and indecipherable as "the activities to support the planning, evaluation and monitoring of public economic investments" with over 11 million euros or the "fund sporting events of international concern" with its 10 million.

A lot of vagueness in these rumors and lack of transparency and clarity.

In 2001 employees of Palazzo Chigi were about 4,500, almost 4,600 units to arrive today but there is no clarity on this point and is difficult to get accurate data.

Since 2000, it is also not possible to consult freely and clearly the financial statements of the Council of Ministers and only after much difficulty and logging in with different accounts to pay you can download a statement immediately and definitely not as clear as what you get from any other company public or private.

Employees at Downing Street in England, for example in terms of population and size (of the two countries), are much less than half of the Italians and earn almost 50% less.

At the British Cabinet takes only about 1,350 employees and managers to handle the tasks that dot the galaxy's prime minister are less than 200 compared to almost 400 executives. The average pay plan for employees of the Italian political machine, is 50% greater than the other ministries and is around 45,000 per year but this calculation does not include the remuneration for executives is quite another thing. So just to give an example with the Anglo-Saxon countries, in Italy seems to have the system of double or doubling games, a bit 'as happened with the introduction of the single currency.

With the euro, in fact, in Italy a good or a product that used to cost 1000 pounds has been an increase of 100%, becoming 1 euro digit arithmetic seems the same but the economic value is doubled, the strange alchemy of the economy Italian.

Beyond the small chance of scratching the malpractice and the silence of the powers and privileges of Italian politics, which could be the solution to make the accounts more transparent and accountable as well as less full-bodied?

The Monti's Government has, at least in intention, tried to give some rules of discipline and restore ethics to politics, as well as those who have suffered heavy and obvious individual Italian citizens. The "professor" prime minister, has succeeded in part, in fact, to do something to alleviate the financial hemorrhaging of state coffers, acting on the costs of the policy snip with some accounts of ministries, and counseling for instance, or the flight status, but until now it has not yet managed to scratch and break the wall of defense that protects the entire policy and makes it impossible, actions such as reducing salaries,

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annuities, avoid waste and remove some privilege.

The solution would be to give the Accounting Department of State this delicate task of checking accounts and balance sheets of Palazzo Chigi to make them less opaque. If this should happen then lead almost automatically all other departments and organs of the state to renounce their right to autonomy and control of accounts, which is rather difficult if not unlikely because it would lose all those possibilities of being able to roam large quantities economic in one convenient and wide if necessary "gray area".

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