



**WARMING EFFECT**

I appreciated the balanced and calm tones used by Donato Speroni in his treatment of the issue of global warming and its impacts, hurricanes included. When dealing with this type of subject it's easy to get carried away by emotions and go off the track. However, there is one point that doesn't directly concern environmental policies, but rather politics. This is that a short-term political vision has become prevalent throughout the world; it is short-sighted and totally oriented to achieving short-term goals. I don't know if it was the financial world that showed the way, but what is certain is that this myopic and possibly suicidal way of facing problems has contaminated almost every sphere, and unfortunately even the political arena. Perhaps only the Chinese, with their hybrid and paradoxical developmental model may still succeed in transferring to politics a long-term vision and long-term goals. Which would, incidentally, be another great paradox of our time.

**Giacomo Cristofori**  
(Rome)

**CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX**

I had never heard of the research called the Civil Society Index that was written about by Vittorino Ferla in *east* No. 6. Studying the reality of the former Communist bloc, including relations between citizens and institutions, is certainly praiseworthy, given that there exists a relative abundance of political and economic analyses on those countries, while there is no literature at all on human rights and the relations between citizen and State. While waiting to read the other reports, my best

regards to Cittadinanzattiva and to your magazine.

**Lorenzo Bergomi**  
(Turin)

**THINKING POSITIVE**

The Italian economy is having a hard time keeping up with its European partners and its international competition, but there are still a lot of entrepreneurs like Carlo Zucchetti capable of holding high the banner of entrepreneurship. The book by Ermete Realacci on the soft economy has recently been having a degree of success; it relates many company success stories such as that of Zucchetti. Beyond any considerations of merit on these "soft experiences" as they are called by sociologists, I think that it's the positive approach that needs to be appreciated, the "think positive" that lies behind it. Crises are never just dynamic facts and negative numbers, but are also the fruit of a gloomy, pessimistic vision about the world around us.

**Giovanna Grimaldi**  
(Milan)

**CORRUPTION TIME**

A blunt and terrifying picture of corruption in Russia was painted by Pietro Sinatti (*east* No. 6). Documented and unbiased analyses like this compensate for the poverty of content and the coarse propaganda ("Tout Va Très Bien, Madame La Marquise") of our political class. It often tends to move on the international scene with the provincial attitude of one who feels fulfilled just by shaking hands and sitting at the same table with the powerful of the earth. Now, it is true that relations between nations and heads of State must have at least a touch of diplomatic hypocrisy, but a bit more sobriety in attitudes would not hurt.

There are times when one almost misses the Bettino Craxi of Sigonella, or the D'Alema of the military intervention in Kosovo; the first capable of standing up to the Americans, the second able to brush off the most radical and ineffective fringe of the Italian left.

**Aldo Crisafulli**  
(Milan)

**WHAT FORUM IN VENICE**

I've read in "Gazzettino" that a Forum on the Enlargement of Europe organized by Fondazione Venezia 2000, the City Council and *east* magazine will be held in June 2006. I find the thing very interesting, especially for the small and medium size Italian companies engaged in... conquering East. Is it possible to have more information about it?

**Giancarlo Pillon**  
(Mestre)

*For the moment we can only confirm that certainly in June 2006 the next session of an annual Forum on 25 member-Europe and on the Orient will be held. In the next issue of east we'll try to be more specific.*

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