

Galimberti: “My first one hundred days”

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From potholes in the roads to future plans for the town, from the pavements to the rota of area managers, to the Territorial Zoning Plan (TZP) and asylum seekers, without forgetting the burning issues of the day, such as the “**Molina case**”.

The guest at the Belforte Club, before a packed hall, this morning, 23 October, was **an all-round Mayor**, who took stock of the situation after the first 100 days of his mandate, insisting on a topic mentioned several times: his closeness to the people, the active part of the council’s choices. It is on **the 80,000 residents that Davide Galimberti wants to invest more**, with the help of the 800 council employees, to implement a wide-ranging policy for the town, for the next 20 years.

STATIONS – The speech started with this. The railway stations, and their reorganisation will not be just a question of infrastructure for Varese, they will also constitute a development opportunity. The figure that Galimberti pulled out of his hat was important: 1.5 million people will come through Varese thanks to the new Arcisate-Stabio trains, transforming Varese into an important transit point. “The plan for the stations is not only structural, but is about the position of the town in the coming decades,” he said, referring to the possibilities of increasing the number of jobs, at a time when the crisis is biting hard, as the people who attend the Town Hall every Thursday remind him.

HUMAN TECHNOPOLE – Still on the theme of mobility, Galimberti spoke about the “Human Technopole”, the science centre that is to be built on the post-Expo area. “We’re 20 minutes from Rho, and this is another opportunity we can’t miss. That’s is why we’re talking with the world of research

and universities, to try to bring positive aftereffects to a field that is in constant evolution, also in Varese.”

TZP AND EMPLOYEES – Another theme concerned town planning. The implementation phase of the new TZP has begun, “which should be completed within a year, and which will redraw the town; we expect the people to make an essential contribution in terms of ideas.”

The implementation will take place “at home”, with the technical offices in Varese preparing documents and drawings.

On employees, the Mayor said that he intended to focus on rationalising resources, from the best use of local police officers, to the recent “**reshuffling**” of **area managers**. “The last reorganisation was in far-off 1998. Since then, many things have changed.” There’ll also be changes with the creation of a “single central purchasing office”, for managing contracts.

FOREIGNERS – Galimberti spoke about the 250 asylum seekers present in Varese. “We intend to make them a resource. In a few days, some of these young people will start tidying up the town’s green areas, streets and the benches; in this way, they’ll give back something to those who have welcomed them, ensuring professional growth without taking work away from local people or companies, with activities that would otherwise not be carried out. This is civic volunteer work that benefits the entire community.”

TOURISM AND CULTURE – “These are two issues which, if carefully organised, will provide a great opportunity for the town. Just think about the success of the evening opening of the cableway, for theatrical events, after I took office: to this day, there are companies that want the cableway to open in the evenings, and are willing to pay for it, to organise events. We have to go back to work, to enhance the Varese ‘brand’.”

MOLINA – The last point of the speech was dedicated to the question of the Molina, the rest home at the heart of controversies over financial investments of the current board of directors (**READ ALL OF THE ARTICLES HERE**).

“I want to tell you this,” the Mayor said, addressing the audience, with more emphasis than the rest of his speech, which had lasted about an hour. “On 27 June, three or four days after arriving at the town hall, your Mayor wrote a letter to the Region and to the Anti-corruption Authority, asking for verification, because the Council is not responsible for this, having lost that responsibility following the appointments made by my predecessor. I informed the authorities, thereby doing my job: if, from 27 June to 23 October, nothing has happened, it is certainly not the responsibility of the Council. The Mayor of Varese has no responsibility; anyone who says otherwise does not know the laws. We will be absolutely serious on this matter; I cannot accept anyone claiming that the council is idle. I cannot accept any hint, even by members of the Democratic Party. Let those who should intervene do so. And I’m talking about Lombardy Region; I wonder where they’ve been in recent months.”

“For us, the Molina is an essential structure, it’s the home of so many Varese inhabitants, and this idle talk is no good for the people. Let the authorities explain; the people want something else. They want the services at the Molina guaranteed,” the Mayor of Varese concluded.

di Translated by Bettoni & Bassetti (Reviewed by Prof. Rolf Cook)

