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Ressort: Politik

Palace games in Italian politics at the time of Covid19

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In Italy, despite the emergence of the Covid19 pandemic, the politics of palace intrigues does not seem to stop.

According to political-science jargon, Italy has always had a system of “corporate politics”. That is each corporation controls and represents large groups in society. Each contends for money and influence. Short term social peace is very important and there is a constant challenge to governments also by

very little parties like Italia Viva Party (about 2%) which wants a government reshuffle, wants the rewriting of Recovery Plan and that the President of the Council of Ministers waives the control on Secret services.

Beyond the massive government support in response to COVID-19 (accommodative monetary policy, direct liquidity relief to the private sector, government-financed job retention programmes, debt moratoria, credit guarantee programmes and direct grants to businesses) the leader of Italia Viva Party Renzi, whose secret plan was a Mario Draghi government to send Conte and his Chief Press Officer Casalino home, maybe will be satisfied with a ministry (the third one) and a couple of more undersecretaries.

Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said today that Premier Giuseppe Conte's government must not be allowed to collapse, as the centrist Italia Viva (IV) party continued to threaten to pull its support due to a row about the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

"This government must continue," Di Maio, a senior member of the 5-Star Movement (M5S), said via Facebook. "The country cannot risk falling into a state of paralysis".

Italia Viva leader and ex-premier Matteo Renzi has repeatedly criticised as lacking ambition the government's plan on how to use over 200 billion euros Italy will get from the EU in grants and low-interest loans.

Conte and several senior ministers are holding a crisis meeting on the Recovery Plan with representatives of the parties in the ruling coalition in the evening.

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