

## 29.11.2016. 50 anni dopu!

Fifty years on...

Fifty years after the Treaty of Rome, fifty years after May '68, 50 years after the time when electoral fraud was institutional on the island, and when exile was the rule for students and graduates, and so many other images that spring to mind: all these will frame the historical dimension of the occasion we will celebrate together on Saturday 10 December 2016, the fiftieth anniversary of the magazine *Arritti*.

Tribute will be paid to those who, after the long fog of the post-war period, re-ignited the flame of the Corsican people and their unfailing historical ambition. With them, thanks to them, *Arritti* proclaimed the Corsican People and the Corsican Nation on its committed front pages. It was on hand through all the struggles, Red Sludge, the Hudson Institute development plan, Aleria, Vazziu, Bastèlica-Fesch, Bernard Bonnet, electoral fraud, land speculation, the defence of the environment, etc.

*Arritti* was there when all the first envoys came, like Libert Bou who was sent by Giscard d'Estaing, and then when the first special status was established under François Mitterrand. It reported on the Joxe/Rocard status, saw Lionel Jospin's Matignon initiative through to the failure of the 2003 referendum despite its whole-hearted mobilisation.

It resonated with the ARC, and later with the UPC; it encouraged the politics of *Unione, Avvene Corsu, Corsica Nazione, Unione Naziunale*; it supported the creation of the PNC, and the emergence of *Femu a Corsica*.

With the creation of the European Free Alliance in the early 1980s, *Arritti* turned its attention to an innovative and productive European approach. So many contacts, so many 'Ghurnate d'*Arritti*' rich in debate and brotherhood with the figures who came to lead these discussion days: Aina Moll, who, at the turn of the 1980s created the language policy that was so successful in Catalonia; Karlos Garaicoetxea, the first post-Franco Basque Lehendakari and the author of the wild success of Basque autonomy; Willy Kuijpers, the Flemish MEP whose work in the European Parliament resulted in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; Nelly Maes, who took her turn at the head of the EFA; John Hume, Nobel Peace Prize winner and a key player in the Northern Ireland peace process; Michel Rocard, the French politician who has had the biggest influence on Corsica; Karel Van Miert, the then European Transport Commissioner; and many others. Not forgetting our Basque friends from *Herrikoa*, with whose help we planned and set up *Femo Qui*, and, of course, all those who will be there to celebrate with us: José Bové, MEP and the champion of agricultural production with a regional identity; Josep Maria Terricabras, Catalan MEP and current chair of the EFA group; and José Maria Munoa, former member of Lehendakari Ibarretxe's cabinet.

More than a witness, *Arritti* became an active player in Corsican political life during these fifty years that have brought so many changes. Corsicans always loved their island; but now they are conscious of belonging to a nation to be defended with heart and pride. *Arritti* has played a huge part in this game-changing attitudinal shift, without which our political hopes as nationalists would be in vain. The election victory of 15 December 2015 is the culmination of a collective effort in which it was a constant, opinionated guiding thread. A 'community of ideas' has taken shape around the magazine,

shared by its readers week after week and passed down through several generations, based on the great values of democracy and around a collective struggle for the future of the Corsican people.  
Semu *Arritti*, è ne semu fieri !