

Maurizio Sarlo – Oh my God, Trump called me! Incredible: am I dreaming or awake? Vrrrrr... the phone vibrates, and I notice a strange number... US area code!?

I think of the usual “decoy numbers,” the ones that made me decide to only answer calls from people already in my contacts. But this time, something tells me to pick up...

“Good afternoon, Dr. Maurizio. You might think this is a prank, but I’m calling from the White House: President Donald Trump wants to speak with you!”

??? I’m stunned. Faced with such an unreal call, I respond with a minimum of courtesy and say, “Excuse me, but if I call back the number that’s showing up, will it always be you answering? From the White House?”

“Yes, I understand, Dr. Sarlo, you think it’s a joke. Okay, hang up and dial the White House switchboard yourself—not the number you see. You’ll find it easily online, and you’ll see that whoever answers will put you through to me. Then I’ll connect you to the President, who’s about to head to bed. It’s early for you, but as you know, it’s nearly night here.”

Increasingly doubtful, shocked, and curious, I say goodbye to the caller and end the call, starting my search for the White House switchboard. Within seconds on bing.com, I find it: 202-456-1414, managed by professional White House operators. I dial the number... A voice answers in English. I give my name and surname, and, like in a movie, they reply:

“We were expecting your call. I’ll transfer you to the office...”

“See how easy and quick that was?” says the same man from before, whose voice I recognize.

“Dr. Maurizio, I’m now connecting you to the President of the United States. I trust you realize what a privilege this is!”

“... Hello? Mr. Maurizio? This is Donald J. Trump. I know you’re doing well, and I’m glad. I also know you’ve always been on my side. Good job. Okay... I bet you’re wondering: why am I calling you? Look, world leaders today—and it’ll only get more important—have a duty to have a team of sharp technicians who can find people like you. Visionaries who can help rethink how to change the current failed paradigm—economic, social, and financial—that we all depend on. I know you’re familiar with these ideas because my staff has been showing me your words for a few days now. Seems they came straight from you. Interesting! The AI from my trusty Elon Musk makes it easy to find people talking about this stuff. It can even translate my American spiel into Italian in real-time. I was curious to chat with you in your language because they tell me you insist on speaking only Italian, for principle. You’ll have to explain that to me later. But for now, tell me something about this paradigm shift idea.”

“Well, Mr. President, first let me catch my breath from this incredible surprise. You surely don’t have time to waste, and I genuinely thank you from the bottom of my heart for thinking to reach out to people around the world tackling these issues. I’ve been doing it, in my own way, with growing awareness since 1968, when I was still in middle school in my

little village in the province of Venice, organizing Italy's first middle school strike. I'll skip the reason for now."

"Here's why I've always said we need to change the current paradigm: for over 13,000 years, humanity seems to have entered a negative phase, coming up with ideas and laws based on two shaky pillars that keep collapsing cyclically:

The first is the ancient, unnatural practice of taxation, which punishes those who work well instead of rewarding them. As it's set up, it periodically drives up prices across the board, leading to speculative bubbles that burst—and inevitably end in cyclical wars.

The second is the unit of currency measurement, which is variable instead of stable! Unlike the liter, the kilogram, time, or the meter, which are fixed."

"Great point, Maurizio. Despite all the consultants, economists, sociologists, and fortune-tellers we have around us, no one's ever put it to me like that. But practically speaking, where would you start?"

"Dear President, in my view, there's only one nation in the world that can set a pilot example and show others the way: Italy. For many reasons:

It has a deeply rooted history of culture and creativity spanning millennia.

It has a sizable population despite its limited territory.

It's positioned between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Despite multinationals doing everything to sink it, it still has a strong presence of the best free-market model: micro, small, and medium enterprises—a model that avoids monopoly dominance, unlike multinationals, which prey on people and their governments.

And because fixing just those two pillars isn't enough, Italy could also address other secondary pillars that are crumbling."

"Interesting, Maurizio. What other 'pillars' would you tackle?"

"Well, dear President, starting with some core principles of our constitutions. The Italian one, as you know, claims to be founded on work! I say that's a serious mistake. It should be founded on human value and people's ability to create and spread ethics and altruism.

In the American one—forgive me, President—it says a private citizen can sue and claim damages from an institution, whether it's the government or the police.

Secondly, a nation's strategic infrastructure and services should never fall into private hands. They should belong to the community and be provided for free.

Only with these ethical pillars can we balance costs and benefits. Otherwise, as the struggles since 2000 show, we end up with speculative bubbles bursting and wars breaking out—whether it's currency devaluation, impoverishing citizens, or tariffs (which you're doing out of necessity, and it's the better option).

Dear President, it's time for nations like the USA, Russia, and Italy to sit around a table and lead others toward changing this failed paradigm, ushering humanity into a New Humanism."

"Wow, they told me you're a visionary, but I didn't realize it was this interesting. Well done, Maurizio. Talk to Meloni about it."

"Thank you, President. One day, that might become reality too."

"Good night—I wish you well because the world needs me tomorrow."

Click! Call ends...

Obviously, this is an imagined, fantastical call. As if the President of the United States has time to care about and call an ordinary citizen like me.

Maurizio Sarlo

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