

avril 2013

Editorial

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Une occasion de perdue

Finally, it is not so bad in our beautiful kingdom of Navarre. We are in fact so rich that we no longer know where to put our money, which pushes us, against our will, to store it in friendly countries like Switzerland. And if someone was well-placed to know that our safes are already full to the brim, it was our budget minister who had to resolve, like others, to use Swiss safes rather than Parisian ones. It is not surprising then that we are plunging into a deficit without funds since our entire surplus of money, potentially available, had to flee our borders.

There is a clear manifestation of a serious organizational problem. Why not build larger safes that could accommodate all our bills and coins and serve as a reserve for current expenses and debt repayments? If I were President of the French Republic, with the reservation of staying abreast of the situation, it is without doubt the first decision I would have taken upon arriving in power. Besides the fact of settling our debt problem without a coup, this would have given a salutary slap to the French industry. Florange would have produced steel and Aulnay would have shaped it, without counting the multiple jobs entrusted to subcontractors.

Better, by creating a real industry, we could even reactivate old industrial sites left abandoned and attract foreign money to our soil. In exchange for a low rent that would improve our current trade balance, we would have guarded these dollars, rubles, yen and other euros, which would have allowed us to create many jobs in services. In addition, cherry on top of the cake, all these deposits could one day be taxed at, say, 40% beyond 100,000 €, a painless way for us to get our accounts back in balance.

Not really, we are proving in France a clear and manifest carelessness. We have a new opportunity in gold to solve all our problems and we have once again let it pass. In the meantime, France will surely be in recession in 2013.

Frédéric Bassigny