Are we at risk of de-politicising politics?

A contribution to deliberations on the post-political vision

The post-political reality manifests itself, on the one hand, in technocratisation of politics and thus, in reducing it to a matter of strictly technical regulations and, on the other hand, in the creation of phoney conflicts, disputes about image, politics being invaded by PR and being turned into overdone theatre. This carries the risk of the total banalisation of politics and of its transformation into what is, in fact, an entertainment activity. It is the contemporary media and political marketing which are the important factors influencing the ongoing processes of de-politicising politics. When the traditional channels of articulation and of the politicisation of the issues and conflicts important to society are impassable, new actors enter the arena. Strong anti-establishment protest parties emerge everywhere where the traditional political parties are unable to present important alternatives to society, closing the contested space in the frames of an ‘institutionalised consensus’.