

## Marina vs. Giorgia?

All,

Marina Berlusconi, daughter of former cruise performer, media mogul, and longtime Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, has just given an in-depth interview to Claudio Cerasa, editor-in-chief of opinion daily Il Foglio. In our informed opinion, it's a truly noteworthy piece of journalism. It's also [an extraordinarily long and wide-ranging discussion](#), with a preview of anti-Putin publications set to be released by the family-owned Silvio Berlusconi Editore publishing house and mark a substantial U-turn from her father's friendship with Putin.

Marina is notoriously media-shy and does not go public very often, and she is generally regarded as a devout guardian of her father's legacy. She is also notorious for flirting with politics and may have considered throwing her hat in the ring. It's a juxtaposition that makes her views on both international and domestic politics all the more interesting, particularly in the present context.

**One of her more pointed critiques is pointed at the swing from what she calls traditional conservative politics to maximalist conservatism.** In particular, she rails against Trump for undermining the unity of the West, behaving like a bully on the global stage, ditching multilateralism, and countering 'woke' extremism with an opposite form of extremism. While she praises Meloni for maintaining a democratic Italian Right, she also cautions against the easy slide towards the far end of the aisle. **At the very moment that J.D. Vance is condemning the EU's 'firewall' mentality, inherent in its refusal to engage with extremist parties, Marina pulls in the opposite direction.** It's always refreshing to remember that few things are a monolith (particularly in politics), and even more entertaining when it comes from unexpected sources.

She also takes a position in the civil rights debate, declaring herself in favour of gay marriages as well as 'end-of-life' rights to self-determination. Ever the pragmatist (one never knows when one will be on the campaign trail) she notes that these are highly complex areas where policy changes must be non-drastring and very gradual.

Despite the dulcet tones, those of us at Policy Sonar would wager that **this is a very political interview, filled with messages directed at both Giorgia Meloni and Antonio Tajani**, the Forza Italia's party leader who, in case you've forgotten, serves *at the pleasure* of the Berlusconi family.

**The message to Meloni is clear: not a step further to the right. This time we've said please, the next time we won't be so polite.**

**That to Tajani seems equally straightforward: remember Forza Italia's place is in the world, and remember your own.**

[In October last year, before the US elections, we noted that the Berlusconi heirs have repeatedly signalled that they are no fans of 'Giorgia'. The chemistry has never been there, and they just never clicked \(maybe her singing voice didn't match that of the late patriarch, who's to say\). Meloni has always been somewhat worried by that. We also noted that Forza Italia doesn't have many options on the board at the moment and that ditching Meloni is not yet a viable move. Yet.](#)

The resolute words of Marina Berlusconi only serves to reinforce our thesis, and the timing of her interview is certainly something to keep in mind.