About This Space
By Joan Noves

This blog is a collaborative experiment between my own editorial voice and artificial intelligence. It was born out of a growing frustration with the state of public discourse in Europe—a landscape increasingly divided between rigid moral dogmatism and reactionary populism.

For decades, many of us have identified with a moderate, humanistic left: one deeply committed to social justice, individual liberty, and the welfare state. Yet today, that same tradition often finds itself paralyzed by its own taboos, reluctant to confront complex realities like border control, national security, or social cohesion for fear of straying from orthodoxy. The tragedy, of course, is that when democratic institutions refuse to govern pragmatically, they do not defeat the radical right—they hand it the keys on a silver platter.

To explore this dilemma, I have created an alter ego: **John News**, a veteran British foreign correspondent now living in quiet retirement in the coastal village of Llançà, Catalonia. Every week, writing for the fictional *Sentinel Gazette*, John tackles a single, pressing social or political issue through two distinct lenses: **The Anchor** and **The Horizon.** John News is not a pseudonym for Joan Noves; it is his avatar that writes in collaboration with AI.

Neither side is straw-manned; neither is dismissed. Both pieces are written from democratic, cultured, and deeply humanistic premises. If a piece makes you pause, hesitate, or re-examine a conviction you thought was settled, then John News has done his job.