

Journal of European Integration History

Revue d'Histoire de l'Intégration Européenne

Zeitschrift für Geschichte der europäischen Integration

Edited by

The European Union Liaison
Committee of Historians

Contents

*Michael J. GEARY, Carine S. GERMOND,
Kiran Klaus PATEL*

**The Maastricht Treaty: Negotiations and
Consequences in Historical Perspective –
Introduction**

N. Piers LUDLOW

**European Integration in the 1980s: on the Way
to Maastricht?**

Antonio VARSORI

**The Andreotti Governments and the Maastricht
Treaty: Between European Hopes and Domestic
Constraints**

Georges SAUNIER

La négociation de Maastricht vue de Paris

Wilfried LOTH

Negotiating the Maastricht Treaty

Guido THIEMEYER

**Economic Models in France and Germany and
the Debates on the Maastricht Treaty**

Harold JAMES

**Designing a Central Bank in the Run-Up to
Maastricht**

Desmond DINAN

**From Treaty Revision to Treaty Revision:
The Legacy of Maastricht**

1 2013

Volume 19

ISSN 0947-9511



Nomos

Editors: Published twice a year by the Groupe de liaison des professeurs d'histoire contemporaine auprès de la Commission européenne. This publication is part of the Network EU-History based at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen. It is financed by the Ministère d'Etat, Présidence du gouvernement of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

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Contents / Table des matières / Inhalt

Michael J. GEARY, Carine S. GERMOND, Kiran Klaus PATEL

The Maastricht Treaty: Negotiations and Consequences in Historical Perspective – Introduction 5

N. Piers LUDLOW

European Integration in the 1980s: on the Way to Maastricht? 11

Antonio VARSORI

The Andreotti Governments and the Maastricht Treaty: Between European Hopes and Domestic Constraints 23

Georges SAUNIER

La négociation de Maastricht vue de Paris 45

Wilfried LOTH

Negotiating the Maastricht Treaty 67

Guido THIEMEYER

Economic Models in France and Germany and the Debates on the Maastricht Treaty 85

Harold JAMES

Designing a Central Bank in the Run-Up to Maastricht 105

Desmond DINAN

From Treaty Revision to Treaty Revision: The Legacy of Maastricht 123

Book reviews – Comptes rendus – Buchbesprechungen 141

PHD Theses – Thèses de doctorat – Doktorarbeiten 163

Information – Informations – Informationen 167

Abstracts – Résumés – Zusammenfassungen 169

Contributors – Auteurs – Autoren 179

Books received – Livres reçus – Eingegangene Bücher 181

Impressum

Editorial Secretariat: Charles Barthel, director (V.i.S.d.P.) | Centre d'études et de recherches européennes | Robert Schuman | 4 Rue Jules Wilhelm | L-2728 Luxembourg | Tel.: (00 352) 24 78 22 90 | Fax.: (00 352) 42 27 97

Website: www.zgei.nomos.de

Annual subscription: 79,- €, annual subscription | **Single issues:** 43,- €, Prices do not include postage and packing.

Payments can be made:

- By cheques payable to Nomos Verlag
- By bank transfers to Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Postbank Karlsruhe: bank code 660 100 75, account no. 73636-751 or Sparkasse Baden-Baden Gaggenau: bank code 662 500 30, account no. – 5-002266. Please ensure your quote „JEIH“ when instructing your bank and enclose a copy of your instructions to the bank with your order.
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Orders: Subscriptions and orders should be sent to: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, D-76520 Baden-Baden, Germany.

Inquiries concerning advertisements should be sent to the Editorial Secretariat, Centre d'études et de recherches européennes Robert Schuman, 4 rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg.

Cancellation Period: Termination within 3 months notice to the end of the year.

Production and Publishing: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, Waldseestr. 3-5, D-76530 Baden-Baden, Telefon 0 72 21 / 21 04-0, Telefax 0 72 21 / 21 04-27, E-Mail: nomos@nomos.de.

Advertisement: Sales friendly, Verlagsgesellschaften, Pfaffenweg 15, 53227 Bonn, Telefon 0228 / 9 78 98-0, Fax 02 28 / 9 78 98-20, E-Mail: roos@sales-friendly.de.

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ISSN 0947-9511

The Liaison Committee of Historians came into being in 1982 as a result of an important international symposium that the Commission had organized in Luxembourg to launch historical research on European integration. The committee is composed of historians of the European Union member countries who work on contemporary history.

The Liaison Committee:

- gathers and conveys information about work on European history after the Second World War;
 - advises the European Union on research projects concerning contemporary European history.
- Thus, the Liaison Committee was commissioned to make publicly available the archives of the Community institutions;
- enables researchers to make better use of the archival sources;
 - promotes research meetings to get an update of work in progress and to stimulate new research: seven research conferences have been organized and their proceedings published.

The Journal of European Integration History – Revue d'histoire de l'intégration européenne – Zeitschrift für Geschichte der europäischen Integration is in line with the preoccupations of the Liaison Committee. Being the first history journal to deal exclusively with the history of European Integration, the Journal offers the increasing number of young historians devoting their research to contemporary Europe, a permanent forum.

The Liaison Committee works completely independently and according to historians' critical method.

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Le Groupe de liaison des professeurs d'histoire contemporaine auprès de la Commission des Communautés européennes s'est constitué en 1982 à la suite d'un grand colloque que la Commission avait organisé à Luxembourg pour lancer la recherche historique sur la construction européenne. Il regroupe des professeurs d'université des pays membres de l'Union européenne, spécialistes d'histoire contemporaine.

Le Groupe de liaison a pour mission:

- de diffuser l'information sur les travaux portant sur l'histoire de l'Europe après la Seconde Guerre mondiale;
- de conseiller l'Union européenne sur les actions scientifiques à entreprendre avec son appui; ainsi le Groupe de liaison a assuré une mission concernant la mise à la disposition du public des archives des institutions communautaires;
- d'aider à une meilleure utilisation par les chercheurs des moyens de recherche mis à leur disposition (archives, sources orales...);
- d'encourager des rencontres scientifiques afin de faire le point sur les connaissances acquises et de susciter de nouvelles recherches: sept grands colloques ont été organisés et leur actes publiés.

L'édition du *Journal of European Integration History – Revue d'histoire de l'intégration européenne – Zeitschrift für Geschichte der europäischen Integration* se situe dans le droit fil des préoccupations du Groupe de liaison. Première revue d'histoire à se consacrer exclusivement à l'histoire de la construction européenne, le Journal se propose de fournir un forum permanent au nombre croissant de jeunes historiens vouant leurs recherches à l'Europe contemporaine.

Le Groupe de liaison organise ses colloques et publications en toute indépendance et conformément à la méthode critique qui est celle des historiens.

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Articles for inclusion in this journal may be submitted at any time. The editorial board will then arrange for the article to be refereed. Articles should not be longer than 6000 words, footnotes included. They may be in English, French or German.

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Citation

The Journal of European Integration History may be cited as follows:
JEIH, (Year)/(Number), (Page).

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