

ABSTRACTS

Peter-Christian Müller-Graff

The judgement of the Federal Constitutional Court on the Treaty of Lisbon: conditions, limitations, oracles and further options

The judgement of the Federal Constitutional Court on the Treaty of Lisbon has confirmed its compatibility with the Basic Law (Grundgesetz). However, its elongated reasoning contains a considerable number of statements which have triggered very critical reactions. The article localises the judgement within the coordinates of the conditioned mandate of the Basic Law for Germany's European integration. It analyses its constitutional switching points, its consequences for the assessment of the Lisbon Treaty as well as its conception of hypothetical conflicts between the development of European integration and German constitutional law with the self-definition of the role of the Court. It also unveils the consequences for European integration policies and develops devices to legally and politically embed the judgement in the dynamics of European integration.

Petr Kratochvíl and Vít Beneš

(Czech) Pride and (Confirmed) Prejudice. An assessment of the Czech Presidency of the European Council

In this article, the Czech EU Presidency in 2009 is analysed from an inside as well as an outside perspective. The authors discuss the practical work of the Presidency in terms of administrative efficiency and fulfilment of two very different sets of Presidency priorities which correspond with the division of labour between the political elite and the mid-range diplomats. They also analyse the general perceptions of the Presidency by key players in the European Union, as these constitute another factor for a successful Presidency. The last part of the article is dedicated to the effects of the Presidency on attitudes within the Czech Republic towards the European Union.

Katrin Böttger

All quiet on the eastern frontier? The Eastern Partnership's aims, contents and first results

The article analyses the Eastern Partnership, a newly developed policy to promote the relationship between the European Union and its eastern neighbours Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which is taking place in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It argues that all the EU member states attribute increasing importance to the east European countries and gradually develop actorness through a coordination reflex in shaping these relations. Besides the internal conditions leading to the Eastern Partnership and the external influence that helped shape the Eastern Partnership, notably the Russian-Georgian conflict of August 2008, the article focuses on the implementation and the reactions it received from within the EU, the eastern Neighbours and Russia. It concludes that not all is quiet on the eastern frontier, since the Eastern Partnership envisages deeper integration and multilateral cooperation that can induce change through transnational socialisation.

André Schmidt

The economic and financial crisis 2008/09 – the first test for the European Economic and Monetary Union

The current economic and financial crisis can be seen as a considerable challenge for the European Monetary Union. The European Central Bank (ECB), the European institutions and the member states tried to prevent the European economies from sliding into a depression by undertaking monetary as well as fiscal policy actions. The aim of the paper is to analyse the sensitivity and absorbability of the EU with respect to exogenous shocks. In doing so, monetary policy as well as fiscal policy tools are presented and evaluated. Hereby is referred to the reactions of the ECB in comparison to those of the FED as well as the investigation of the impulses of fiscal policy actions undertaken by the EU on its member states. In line with the analysis, weaknesses, mainly in the area of fiscal policy, are identified and possible threats are highlighted.