

ABSTRACTS

Jean Paul Jacqué

The Treaty of Lisbon – new equilibrium or institutional hodgepodge?

During the public debate following the failed ratification of the Constitutional Treaty the institutional innovations that it included were hardly contested. It is therefore hardly surprising that these innovations were incorporated into the Treaty of Lisbon with a few exceptions. The intention of the reform was to increase the efficiency of the European institutions and to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the union. Along these two dimensions, this article outlines the most important innovations for the institutional system of the European Union. The role of the new President of the European Council and that of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as well as their relationship to other key actors such as the Council, the Commission, the European Parliament receive particular attention. Taking into consideration the first practical experiences with the Lisbon Treaty the author discusses potential developments and risks of the European institutional setting.

Severin Fischer and Jo Leinen

Between leadership and speechlessness: Europe's lessons from the Climate Conference in Copenhagen

As early as 2007, European Heads of State and Government declared that a comprehensive international agreement on tackling climate change would be their main target for the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen already in 2007. From the perspective of the European Union, the outcome of the negotiations failed to meet these high expectations. This article looks at the European Union's role both before and during the negotiations and analyses the European climate strategy. Finally, the authors present three recommendations for the future role of Europe in international climate negotiations. The authors also take a more general look at the prospects for worldwide cooperation on climate protection.

Gunilla Herolf

Sweden and the EU Presidency – honest broker with own interests

The motto of the Swedish EU Presidency “We accept the challenge” points to the fact, that most of the tasks facing the Presidency were the leftovers of previous Presidencies or part of the EU's running agenda. This article therefore focuses on the following priorities of the Presidency: economy and employment, the new climate programme, the Stockholm Programme, the EU strategy for the Baltic sea region, EU enlargement and security issues, and the preparations for the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon. The author assesses both the degree to which these goals are fulfilled and the importance of these results. She conducts this assessment from several perspectives, contrasting Swedish perspectives with those of other EU member states. Furthermore, some more general reflections as to the functions of the EU-Presidency – such as its mediatory or leadership role –, and the relationship between the smaller and the larger EU states – are made.

Marcelo Vollmann

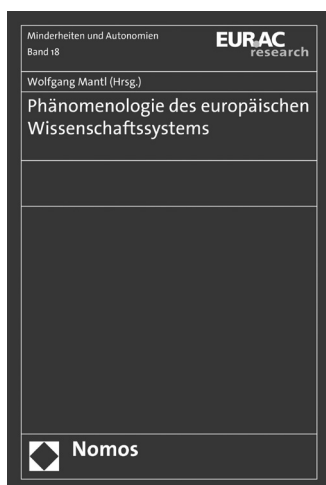
Divided along ideological or national lines or united against the Council? The European Parliament and the CO₂ regulation for new passenger cars

One of the most important and controversial applications of the co-decision procedure in recent years has been the political decision-making process that took place between the European institutions, enshrining norms for CO₂ emissions of passenger cars in the framework of a regulation. This article retraces the decision-making process within the European Parliament and analyses the extent to which this process was shaped by ideological and national divisions or parliamentary unity towards the Council. The author concludes that the European Parliament was equally motivated by both national like ideological reasons, and that a united position towards the Council only emerged after long and controversial debates.

Heinrich Schneider

Fifty years Institut für Europäische Politik: fifty years of ‘Integrationsverantwortung’

The Federal Constitutional Court added the term ‘Integrationsverantwortung’ (‘responsibility for integration’) to the European dictionary. In this article, the author uses this term in a slightly different way to describe the nature and work of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) over the past fifty years. According to the article the activities of the IEP and its development could be characterised as theoretically driven considerations and educated guesses measured against the actual state and changes within the integration process.



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