

ABSTRACTS

Hartmut Marhold

From Monetary Union to the (failed) Constitutionalization of the European Union – Ten Years of System Reform, a Chapter of History of Integration (1999-2008)

A decade of reform efforts came to an end with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009. At the beginning and at the end of this decade, it was the deepening of the economic and monetary policy that added a major impetus to the process of European integration. The article covers the chapter of European integration from 1999 to 2008, starting with the achievement of Monetary Union covering the Treaty of Nice, the Laeken declaration, the Convention on the future of the EU, the failure of the Constitutional Treaty and the protracted Lisbon Treaty ratification process. Even if the system reform was not the only field, where the process of European integration was moving forward, its legacy and the new treaty provisions are determining European policy for many years to come.

Gisela Müller-Brandeck-Bocquet and Carolin Rüger

Ten Years High Representative – Lessons for the European Foreign and Security Policy after Lisbon

By now, the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security had more than a full year to implement the substantial reforms of the Lisbon Treaty, thereby shaping the enhanced office of the High Representative according to her preferences. Reason enough for the two authors to compare the performance of the present High Representative Catherine Ashton with the achievements of her predecessor Javier Solana. The article highlights the decade of the first High Representative. How strong was his influence on the structural set-up and actual policy shaping processes of CFSP and ESDP? Was he able to leave his fingerprints on the way the European Union acts as an international actor? The article concludes with a first evaluation of how the Solana legacy is handled by his successor Ashton.

Heinrich Schneider

Europe's Identity (yesterday) – Europe's Crisis (today): a Change of Subject as an Indication of a Paradigm Change?

The discourse on the topic of European identity was high on the agenda 20 years ago, when the creation of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) came into reach. According to the prevalent opinion at that time, the EMU required unlike the Common Market the presence of a strong European identity for its survival. In the current Euro zone crisis European solidarity is an indispensable prerequisite for reform efforts and rescue packages. Given this development, the author raises the question if the farewell to the debate on European identity was premature. At the outset of a second debate on European identity he provides a critical overview of the ongoing discussion.

Björn Hacker

Competitive Factor Welfare State: Approaching the Prevailing European Social Model

Whenever the European integration process runs the risk of slowing down, and crises expose deficiencies in the construction of the European Union, politics like to refer to the need for the establishment and further development of a European Social Model. However, social science research is at odds when it comes to defining a common understanding of the concept, setting diverse patterns and benchmarks depending on respective schools of thought and ways of approach. A classification and comparative overview of the basic constitutive approaches provided by integration and comparative welfare state research displays the panorama of possibilities for the form and content of a European Social Model. At the same time, its present constitution is revealed as the product of a competition on which national welfare state model is best adapted to the conditions of economic integration.

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