

## ABSTRACTS

Joachim Schild

### **A Political Claim to Leadership on a Decreasing Power Base: French European Policy under François Hollande**

French European policy has undergone a turning point since François Hollande has been elected the French president in May 2012. A European growth strategy is to ease and complement budgetary consolidation. Considering the public opinion and the fragile domestic power base, the article analyses the European policy leadership of this new executive, and its positioning and choices of strategy, particularly in terms of overcoming the Euro crisis. Leadership differences between France and Germany have increased, and Hollande tries to establish French assertiveness regarding European policies by narrowing the bilateral relations to Italy and Spain. A consistent French leadership in Europe and prolific French-German relations will be dependent on the successful reconstruction of economic competitiveness and fiscal sustainability of the French government.

Nicolai von Ondarza

### **On the Way to a Union within the Union. Institutional Consequences of Differentiated Integration in the Euro Area on the EU**

Due to the growing number of opt-outs, international treaties outside the EU primary law and enhanced cooperation, differentiation is increasingly becoming the modus operandi for further integration in the European Union. Most recently, the EU heads of state and governments have reverted to manifold strategies of differentiated integration to manage the debt crisis. These included for example, the Euro Plus Pact (23 member states), the European Fiscal Compact (25 member states) and the creation of new institutions for the ‘Euro-17’. The article analyses the consequences of this development on the European Union. On the one hand, the newly created Euro Summits, the Eurogroup and the Euro-Area Working Group have established a completely separate structure within the Council of the EU exclusive to the Euro countries. This also strengthens the intergovernmental pillar of EU decision-making. In contrast, the European Parliament faces the dilemma to become either split for decisions concerning the Eurozone or to be weakened in its democratic legitimation by the decision-making power of members from non-Euro member states.

Matthias Freise and Matthias Garbert

### **Abandoning the “Watering Can Approach”? European Cohesion Policy after the Lisbon Treaty**

The article focuses on current legislative procedures, which will frame European Cohesion Policy from 2014 to 2020, by analyzing the cleavages between the European Parliament, the Commission and the member states. It points out that five major conflicts dominate the debate on the strategic conception of the regional development policy. In particular, the questions of the appropriate budget, its spending and future budgetary commitments by the introduction of ex post and macroeconomic conditionalities represent key notions within the negotiation process. The paper points out that Cohesion Policy serves as a legitimacy resource for all involved negotiation partners. Hence, it is unlikely that future support programs will abandon

the “watering can approach” of European Cohesion Policy, which has been subject to much allegation.

Christian Deubner

### Lessons to be Learnt for the Eurozone from German and US American Federalism

By examining the relevance of solidarity, control and “moral hazard” in German and US American fiscal federalism, it can be shown that the clearly limited solidarity of US federalism is better able to assure a solid fiscal policy of its member states than the unlimited solidarity plus weak control in German federalism. The institution of a credible no-bailout rule is decisive for this result. A review of the emerging EU fiscal union, considering the same criteria, demonstrates that it resembles the German model with unlimited solidarity plus weak control more likely. In consequence, this new type of a European fiscal union is considered to have only limited chances of success.

## Gemeinden als Rettungsanker der EU?



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Gemeinden gelten als „Keimzelle für das Zusammenleben in Europa“ und als „Fundament der Staatengemeinschaft“. Für diese These findet sich aber keine empirische Überprüfung. Die Studie

schließt diese Forschungslücke und untersucht erstmals den Einfluss individueller Merkmale und des lokalen Umfelds auf die Zustimmung der Bürger zur EU.

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