

ABSTRACTS

Julia Lieb and Martin Kremer

The Setting up of the European External Action Service: Status Quo and Perspectives

The Lisbon Treaty aspires to make better use of the European Union's foreign policy potential in the field of external relations. The European External Action Service (EEAS) constitutes the nuts and bolts of these reform efforts. The authors elaborate three lines of analysis on the current state of the EEAS and its future perspectives: 1. Even though the EU member states and institutions started out with a high level of ambition with regard to the EEAS project, their opinions on which model to follow diverged from the beginning. In addition, there was a lack of willingness to reform the institutional basis for a coherent European representation in a comprehensive manner. 2. The negotiation strategies concerning the EEAS were primarily defensive and focused on preserving control and influence within the new diplomatic structure. 3. The compromise found on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS is a result of these hesitant reform negotiations. The future success of the Service depends on its ability to sustain and adapt to pressure, on the engagement of the people involved, and on the general, foreign policy priorities and resource allocations within the European Union.

Elmar Brok

The new Powers of the European Parliament after 'Lisbon' in the Field of Common Trade Policy

Since the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European power structure has been in a transformational phase. This new power structure has to find its balance. However, the great winner is the European Parliament through its great gain in power. The author explains, using the example of the European Parliament's INTA Committee, that the European Parliament has evolved from a side actor into a major player in the field of EU foreign relations. New rights and authorising possibilities are clearly presented. But, nonetheless, the author also critically points out that the European Parliament should not miss out on its potential. The Parliament should consider its possibilities in trade policies within the overall context of EU foreign relations and thus provide the EU with greater influence and democratic legitimacy on the world stage.

Wolf J. Schünemann

Another Victory of Fear? Analysing the second Irish Referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon

The second Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty on the 2nd of October 2009 was won with an over two thirds majority. Thus, it revised the negative vote one year before. This article examines the debate in the run-up to the polls. Thereby, it follows a discourse-analytical approach which is seldom used in political science and may be seen as complementary to the established methods of election studies. Leaning on Radical Constructivist assumptions, the referendum is regarded less as an electoral act than as an election campaign. The speakers engaged and the essential arguments articulated in the campaign are analysed to test the hypothesis that the economic situation in Ireland can be seen as the main factor to explain the swing of opinion.

Sarah Borgloh and Friedrich Heinemann

The Non-Profit Sector in Europe: Underresearched but not Unimportant

The non-profit sector has gained substantial economic importance in Europe, and European politics has recognised the potential of this sector. Better knowledge of this sector is however essential to defining European strategies which could further enhance this potential. Against this background, a comparative analysis of the non-profit sector in selected member states of the European Union is conducted. The article explores how the structure and size of the sector in seven European countries may be explained by means of established economic theories on the existence of non-profit organisations. The empirical findings are consistent with theoretical predictions, whereas differences between countries may be ascribed to historical peculiarities and path dependencies. Finally, concluding remarks on the role of the European Union in further developing the potential of the non-profit sector to better cope with upcoming challenges are made.

Gabriele Abels, Martin Große Hüttmann and Annegret Eppler

On the Work and the Report of the EU Reflection Group “Horizon 2020-2030” – a Guide to European Integration?

On the 8th of May 2010, the EU Reflection Group “Horizon 2020-2030” presented its final report “Project Europe 2030” after 17 months of deliberation. After a decade of being bound up in oneself, the report aims to prepare the EU for the tremendous challenges of the future. The work of this recent Reflection Group has hardly been noticed – even by EU experts. Therefore, the paper starts by outlining the history of the Reflection Group before discussing the manifold problems concerning the content and method of the Group’s work. Finally, a preliminary assessment of the final report, which is intended to be a wake-up call for the EU, is tried. Whether the relevant actors and the public hear the alarm bells toll, however, depends on a number of factors; therefore, the timing of the report can turn out to be an obstacle as well as an opportunity.

Paul J.J. Welfens

From the Greek Crisis to the Collapse of the Eurozone?

The Greek crisis has triggered a broader stabilisation crisis of the Eurozone. As regards the crisis management, hesitant policy measures for supporting Greece have reinforced the problem; at the same time, the supporting package was much too small. The Eurozone countries have created a new framework for Euro-stabilisation which is useful for fighting short term speculation; however, this approach will not overcome structural problems. A stabilisation of the Eurozone and the EU is possible: it requires a few careful steps towards reform.