

PHD Theses – Thèses de doctorat – Doktorarbeiten

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Olivier VAN DEN BOSSCHE, *A history of EU-ACP private sector development policies (1975-2000)* – Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle

Supervisor: Laurent MARTIN, Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle

Jury: Laurent MARTIN, Laurence BADEL, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; Véronique DIMIER, Université Libre de Bruxelles; Christine MANIGAND, Université Paris III Sorbonne-Nouvelle; Guia MIGANI, Université de Tours; Franck PETITEVILLE, Sciences Po Grenoble

Date of the defence: 21.06.2018

Field: Contemporary history

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This doctoral dissertation is an original study of a particular and ever-increasing type of development aid policy. Private sector development policies aim at fostering economic development by strengthening the local enterprises (micro, small and medium-sized) and improving the foreign investment climate in developing countries. The thesis studies their implementation in the context of the relations between the EU institutions and the countries of the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) group, from 1975 to 2000. In particular, the study looks at the links of the Commission services (DG8) with the joint instruments serving this policy: mainly the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Centre for Industrial Development (CDI). The history of these policies is also interspersed with evolutions that are specific to transnational economic networks: Group of Seven, Member States, and other international organizations (World Bank, OECD). The research recalls the individual socio-professional trajectories of internal actors (DG8 administrators) and external experts (academics, consultants, businessmen), their links and the institutional dynamics that explain the making of European development policies.

The research is based on extensive archival research from, mainly, the Commission services (files of international negotiations, staff archives), the Centre for Industrial Development (CDI-CDE), and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In addition, 60 interviews were conducted with Commission, CDI, EIB and private sector representatives in Europe and Africa. The thesis focuses on three stages: industrial co-operation (1975-1985), which aims to achieve a convergence of interests between the political objectives of developing countries at the time of the "New International Economic Order" and the economic needs of Europe; the emergence of "private sector development" as a new hegemonic terminology within the OECD's DAC (1985-1995); the time for institutional and operational reforms of development aid in the name of effectiveness and global changes (1995-2000).

Mechthild ROOS, *The power of nuisance. The European Parliament's gain in power in the area of Community social policy, 1952-1979* – University of Luxembourg

Supervisory board: David HOWARTH, University of Luxembourg; N. Piers LUDLOW, London School of Economics and Political Science; Anna-Lena HÖGENAUER, University of Luxembourg

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Date of the defence: 11.07.2018

Field: Contemporary History

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The European Parliament (EP) – one of the EU's most powerful institutions today – was not intended to be more than a consultative assembly at the founding of the European Communities in the 1950s. This thesis demonstrates how the EP swiftly outgrew the role of an ineffectual 'talking shop' and developed noteworthy – though mostly informal – parliamentary powers already prior to its first direct elections in 1979. Based on a corpus of ca. 4,000 EP documents and 25 semi-structured interviews with former MEPs and EP staff members, this thesis analyses what induced Members of the EP (MEPs) – delegates from the national parliaments at the time – to invest considerable time and effort into an institution which promised no significant political impact, little career advancement, and no acknowledgement by voters.

This thesis studies the EP's institutional evolution through the lens of Community social policy – a policy area regarding which Treaty provisions were limited and Community competences very narrow. Even though this area was handled by national governments rather as a byproduct in the establishment of the Common Market, it developed into fertile ground for the MEPs' activism. Namely, social policy offered an opportunity to demonstrate the direct impact of the Community project on people's lives. This thesis shows that, by extending the Communities' social dimension, MEPs

sought to strengthen the EP's role as representative of the citizens, and to improve public support for European integration.

The thesis demonstrates that the early EP must not be thought of as the institution described in the Communities' founding Treaties. Instead, whilst largely operating within its Treaty-assigned remit, the pre-1979 EP should rather be considered the sum of the actions of its members. This thesis provides an in-depth study of the institutionalisation processes which resulted from the delegates' socio-political activism. It also offers a detailed analysis of the ideas, logics of appropriateness and aspects of socialisation influencing the MEPs' behaviour. Even though the shaping of the EP's powers was obviously not in the hands of MEPs alone, this dissertation reveals that the MEPs' activism was the main driving factor behind the EP's gradual empowerment prior to 1979.

Giuseppe IGLIERI, *The Community Movement. Adriano Olivetti's party* – University of Molise

Supervisor/Jury: Giuseppe PARDINI, University of Molise; Carmelita DELLA PENNA, University G. D'Annunzio di Chieti e Pescara; Francesco TESTA, University of Pegaso; Loredana TULLO, University of Molise

Field: Contemporary History

Date of the defence: 08.05.2018

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Following the Second World War, in June 1947 Adriano Olivetti founded a political movement called Community Movement. Olivetti was an entrepreneur and President of the Urbanistic Italian Institute who had a peculiar political vision, aiming for a society based on territorial planning and a new local authority called "Comunità". The Community Movement became part of the post-war Italian political system until its demise in 1961. It held social-democratic positions and initiated a wave of planning and innovative projects, never attempted before in Italy. The most relevant were the Industrial Organic Plan (PIO) for development of the Regions of Southern Italy and the Institute for Urban and Rural reconstruction, realized in the Piemonte Region.

The thesis focused on aspects of the movement's development that were hitherto largely unknown, but are rich of key episodes for Italian and European history, such as for example, the attempt to unify the socialist forces in Italy, the realization of socio-economic projects and the creation of a new idea of Europe. In particular, the European ideal had a remarkable relevance in the action of the Community Movement. The federalist paradigm represented the foundations of a solid bridge built between the Community Movement and the European Federalist Movement (EFM). From 1947, Altiero Spinelli, a key figure in the Federalist Movement, joined the Central Committee of the Community Movement and, at the same time, Olivetti joined the Central Committee of the EFM. The cooperation between the two movements was further sealed by the participation at the Aja Congress, in May 1948, as official members of the Italian delegation.

Thanks to the study of unpublished documents kept at the Olivetti Historical Archives in Ivrea, the National Archives in Washington DC and the Central Archive of the State of Rome, it was possible to evaluate the historical-political impact of the collaboration that the two movements had between 1947 and 1960 at the European level.

In this context, the two movements cooperated to the launching of institutions, such as the Council of Europe and the Council of Municipalities and Regions of Europe. The latter was developed by Umberto Serafini, Secretary general of CM and political director of EFM.

However, the success of the Community Movement was short-lived. Shortly after entering the Italian government in 1958 and after having initiated the proposal of a motion regarding the European constitution, Olivetti died suddenly. The Movement was unable to survive its leader and slowly collapsed.

Today, the reconstruction of those events and, in particular, of the close collaboration with the EFM, can provide a vital element to the history of the European idea.