

ABSTRACTS

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The European Community after Fifty Years - An Attempt at Assessment

Assessing the achievements of the European Community over the last 50 years, the article analyzes three great economic projects that shaped the vision of Europe as a unified economic area which is a key link of world economy. The discussed projects include: the program of a unified internal market, the Economic and Currency Union, and the Lisbon Strategy. The projects are assessed from the point of view of a philosophy of integration proposed by Jean Monnet, and based on the principle of a gradual transition to subsequent stages of cooperation in effect of practical achievements and related concepts of functionalism and neo-functionalism. The Monnet method assumes Europe's gradual federalization by "attaining federal solutions due to creation of real bonds between states and by developing corresponding political systems". In turn, functionalism theories describe the dynamism of European integration in terms of the concept of spill-over logic, i.e. within the framework of expanding the tasks of integration onto subsequent spheres and areas, following the acquisition of the ethos of cooperation and reaching a procedural consensus for the realization of diversified interests. Fifty years of European Union's history have proven those concepts correct and represent a slow and gradual development of integration processes towards a tighter cooperation based on attaining subsequent stages from a unified market to currency union, and further on to a strategy of making the Union the world's most competitive economy. However, the process is not a linear one, it encounters barriers and limitations, and for this reason requires commitment both on the part of EU's institutions as well as the governments of member states so that the great project of a common Europe might not be dissipated.

Marek Andrzejewski

"Miracle" and "Disaster" in Bern. Political and Propaganda Repercussions of the Football World Cup of 1954 in the FRG and Hungary

The article is an attempt to show the political and propaganda repercussions of an unexpected success of the FRG's football team at the World Cup in Switzerland in 1954. For Hungarians defeat came as a shock and even led to riots in Budapest. It can be posited that a "mere" second place of the Hungarian team, in a sense triggered what might be termed as an energy of opposition. In the FRG, on the other hand, there was an explosion of joy. The victory in Bern was for the German society a cause for public merriment. Ten years after 1945 Germans could at last be proud of their country. The success in Bern and one year later the return of thousands of Germans from Soviet captivity marked for the west-German society an end of the hard post-war period.

Marcin Dębicki

Today's Central Europe - A "Commonwealth of Four Nations"?

The article focuses on certain socio-political developments across Poland's eastern border (among others - the so-called orange revolution in Ukraine or Russia's policy towards its western neighbours), which occasion another - to all likelihood not the last - debate on the character of Central Europe. The Commonwealth of Four Nations which appears in the title, is conceived of in highly abstract and symbolic terms, and has the function of a "keystone" for a similar situation or similar problems faced by Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, which does not mean that this "construct" is free from social tensions. The central European context includes also the issue of different visions of history among the old and new members of the European Union. In connection with a lack of clear stance on the part of the EU on cultural issues this significantly complicates the creation on purely social grounds of a common plane for the prospective European identity.

Piotr Kalka

The Origins of the European Coal and Steel Community

J The article, which comprises four parts, discusses the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community. The first part presents the Schuman plan and the circumstances that induced J. Monnet and his coworkers to develop this initiative. The second part shows the reactions to this plan in Western Europe - in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Benelux countries, Italy and Great Britain. The third part analyzes the negotiations on the treaty establishing the ECSC. First a general analysis of the negotiations is presented, followed by a discussion of the basic controversies that appeared in their course. Those controversies concerned the economic policy of the ECSC, institutional issues and the contents of the transitory regulations of the treaty. The fourth part focuses on the impact of the creation of ECSC on further development of integration processes, including work on treaties establishing the European Defense Community and the European Political Community, as well the creation of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.

Ryszard Zięba

The Role of Germany in the Foreign Policy and Security Policy of the European Union

Since the beginning of its statehood the Federal Republic of Germany has committed itself to the cause of European integration seeing in it an opportunity to build a democratic state within a wider framework of democratic Europe. The FRG treats its engagement in the process of integration as a Europeization of its foreign policy. Already as a Bonn republic it was among the initiators of establishing a Common Policy of Foreign Affairs and Security, and after the emergence of the European Union, the unified Germany was active in strengthening the CPFAS and in creating the EU's defense policy. Germany opted for adoption of the CPFAS by the whole EU but it also managed to negotiate its initiatives with France which represents the conception of inter-governmental politics. The FRG treats the European Union as a multilateral forum where integrated Europe speaks in one voice on the international scene. For this reason the FRG supports a strengthening of the EU's policy in the domains of foreign affairs, security and defense. It also argues for the adoption of a new constitutional treaty for Europe.

Anna Tomtas-Anders

The State of Science and Technology in Poland and the Possibilities of Using the European Funds

This article is an attempt to answer the question about the efficiency of using European funds, which are assigned to the Polish R&D sector. To achieve this goal the author analyzes the situation of the R&D sector focusing particularly on expenditure for basic and applied research, human resources and innovation. Besides, the author introduces specific European funds including structural funds and instruments of R&D policy. Regarding the low efficiency of using European funds by the R&D sector in Poland, the paper presents also the most important tasks, which have to be undertaken to increase the absorption of European grants to develop Polish R&D activities.

Paweł Churski

Regional Differentiation in Using the European Union Structural Funds in Poland

The aim of this article is to present the results of the first period of absorbing Structural Funds in Poland. The analysis refers to the realisation of planned initiatives specified in the strategic document, namely the National Development Plan 2004-2006, which is a basis of the new model of Polish regional policy. The obtained results show the level of absorption of Structural Funds including the structure that results from Operational Programmes which are part of the National Development Plan and the structure of beneficiaries among which the ones singled out are: units of local governments, businessmen, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. In each case the analysis includes regional differences of the absorption process which allows to define the impact of Structural Funds on changes of differences in regional economic development in Poland.

Marek Mikołajczyk

Jean Monnet's Role in Preparing the Schuman Plan

After the end of the Second World War, Jean Monnet, who had many years of experience in international economic cooperation became the head of the General Planning Commission with a task to rebuild and modernize French economy. He was convinced that France could be rebuilt on condition that Europe was rebuilt, and that the solution of the German issue must be undertaken within the European framework. J. Monnet relied above all on the possibility of obtaining German coal by France which was necessary for rebuilding French economy. Following the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 the situation of Germany underwent a major change. Western allies expected France to prepare an initiative that would enable an integration of West Germany with the rest of Western Europe. J. Monnet then suggested to Robert Schuman, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, that a European Coal and Steel Community could be created on a French-German foundation. The project was prepared by J. Monnet and his closest coworkers, and presented to the public on 9th May, 1950. It went down in history under the name of the Schuman plan.

Piotr Zientara

Revitalization of Industrial Areas from the EU's Structural Funds. Implementation of the RECHAR II Program in the Limburg Region (1994-1999)

The genesis of traditional industrial regions is inextricably intertwined with the industrial revolution. The need to reduce transport costs spurred concentration of heavy industry, which was seen as an engine of economic growth. Yet in the second half of the 20th century, dramatic structural changes - due, among other things, to technological progress - diminished the significance of coal mining and heavy industry. As a result, the situation in traditional industrial

districts worsened. Plagued with numerous problems, they began to be regarded as declining and unattractive, which in turn led to a fall in their competitiveness. Hence, within the framework of EU regional policy, programmes were devised with a view to supporting re-conversion and revitalisation efforts as well as to preventing regional disparities from growing. One of such programmes was RECHAR II addressed to regions affected by the decline of coal mining. The present article shows - with the help of analysis of the implementation of RECHAR II projects in the Limburg province - how to use revitalisation initiatives as a vehicle for enhancing regional competitiveness. That is why special emphasis is laid on the question of competitiveness and its determinants which - as the article argues - at the time of progressing globalisation, seems to be the key to attracting much-needed foreign direct investment and thereby raising living standards.

Rafał Riedel

The Bolkestein Directive - Liberalization of the Services Market?

Business entities operating on the European market experience considerable difficulties with rendering services outside their respective countries. This is caused mainly by the necessity to adhere to local regulations whose often unjustified aim is to protect the local market from foreign competition. Implementation of the service directive and the first years of its functioning will bring an answer to the question whether the so-called Bolkestein directive (from the name of Frits Bolkestein - a former member of the European Commission) will have an impact on the process of European integration. Potentially, changes induced by the service directive can be compatible - in terms of scale and significance - to the introduction of the euro as a currency that replaced the national currencies in twelve countries of the European Union. This might be so on condition that the neo-functional theory of European integration proves correct and the spill-over mechanism induces integration in related spheres. The presented study is a reflection on the service directive in two aspects: to what extent it can be an instrument of enhancing integration, and in what respects it is just a legal act passed to reduce a backlog.

Ryszarda Formuszewicz

The Berlin Declaration

In connection with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome, the leaders of the member states of the European Union issued a political declaration to mark the occasion. The so-called Berlin Declaration was intended as a manifestation of the EU's unity in the face of challenges of globalization. However, the document gave rise to some controversies concerning both procedural questions and emphases in its contents. For the German presidency the declaration is an important step towards resolving the crisis caused by the disruption of the process of ratification of the constitutional treaty.

Adam Barabas

Poland's Attitude to the Conception of European Integration in the Years 1918-1939

The main aim of the article is a presentation of Polish intellectual and political elites in the context of the most important ideas of European integration 1915 - 1939. In the first part, the author characterizes Friedrich Naumann's conception of "Mitteleuropa", Richard Coudenhove-Calergi's theory of "Paneuropa" and Aristide Briand's idea of European Union from the League of Nations. Next, the author describes the ideas of economic integration put forward by Andre

Tardieus, Elmer Hantoss and Milan Hodzas and comments on ideas created by Polish politicians.

Tomasz Hoffmann

Absorption of the European Union Structural Funds in Poland

The aim of the article is an analysis of the absorption of European funds by local governments, businessmen and farmers in the years 2004-2006. Experience obtained within the two years of Poland's membership in the EU has occasioned numerous questions, opinions and controversies concerning the usage, management and realization of projects co-financed from structural funds. All those comments demand a broader discussion in view of a new financial perspective of the EU for the years 2007-2013, with an increase of financial transfer up to 59.6 billion EUR. In comparison with the period of 2004-2006 this means an increase of funds by almost six times. Thus, funds available in the years 2007-2013 are an enormous opportunity for Polish economy and society.