

THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Janusz Józef Węc, Debate in the European Union on the Second Systemic Reform (2011-2012)

The debate on the second institutional reform of the European Union began towards the end of 2011. The purpose of the new reform is to complete the systemic changes of EU implemented by the Treaty of Lisbon of 13 December 2007. The first part of the article presents the standpoints of the most important states whose representatives took active part in this debate or participated in the proceedings of the Reflection Group on the Future of the European Union. The second part discusses the opinions of EU institutions, particularly the European Commission and the European Council on the proposed reform. The three reports of Herman Van Rompuy prepared in collaboration with Barroso, Draghi and Juncker, which were presented to the European Council in June, October and December 2012 led to the development of a plan of measures aimed at completing the process of constituting an Economic and Currency Union by creating an integrated financial, budget and economic framework that would eventually overcome the debt crisis in the Eurozone. In turn the report of the Reflection Group on the Future of the European Union of September 2012 contained the postulate of a second in history, complex systemic reform of the entire EU. The idea of a possible transformation of the European Union into a Political Union has been postponed for at least a few years.

Bogdan Koszel, From Constitution for Europe to "Reform Treaty"

Since the beginning of the 21st century a debate has been underway in the European Union on the future systemic model of this organization and the necessity of implementing indispensable institutional changes that would prepare it to operate in an increasingly globalizing world. The discussion that took place in the years 2000-2002 resulted in launching work by the European Convent, which in June 2003 drafted a bold project of a Constitution for Europe. As a result of opposition from many countries which feared the loss of their sovereignty and especially after referenda in France and Holland at the end of May and beginning of June 2005 the Constitutional Treaty was not enforced. Following a French-German agreement it was modified and given the form of a “reform treaty” (a “simplified” one). Elements that could be associated with the project of the earlier EU Constitution were deleted. However, it is estimated that the Treaty of Lisbon enforced in December 2007 retained about 80% of the substance of the old Constitutional Treaty.

Sebastian Wojciechowski, Contemporary Problems of the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy

Common Security and Defense Policy of the European Union (EU CSDP) has been the subject of numerous and diverse publications. However, they are largely descriptive rather than analytic, focusing on e.g. highlighting the origin of the above mentioned issue, its main stages, institutions or legal grounds. Too little attention is paid to, among others, such matters as: an attempt to systematize the constitutive elements of CSDP, depiction of the causes of problems occurring in this sector of integration, their classification or the presentation of consequences of such a state of things. These issues are considered in the present essay.

Izabela Wróbel, Quasi-Legislative Citizens' Initiative as an Element of Participating Democracy in the Legal-Institutional System of the European Union

The object of the article is to present the rulings of the primary and secondary law of the European Union pertaining to the citizens' initiative at the supranational level that serve the implementation of organizational and infrastructural solutions as well as the first experiences with applying the accepted legal norms, administrative procedures and informative-communicative means. The analysis of the legal grounds aims at positioning the European citizens' initiative in the classifications of democracy and its tools proposed so far, and adjusting theoretical approaches to states to the needs of studies on a supranational organization of an integrative character. Analysis of the course and results of hitherto application of the rulings on the European Citizens' Initiative purports to answer the question whether and how the direct power of the citizens of the European Union is exercised in practice at the level of this organization. The focus of the study is the question whether implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon actually results in a significant broadening of the scope of participating democracy and whether the European citizens are interested in using this new instrument of democracy, namely popular initiative at the supranational level.

Radosław Grodzki, Internal Security of the European Union and Transatlantic Relations

The article deals with the problem of the impact of transatlantic relations on the shape of internal security of the European Union especially in the context of escalation of unconventional threats. It also shows the dependence between the ability to co-shape the international framework of security and the maintenance of a strong position on the international arena together with possibilities of an unhampered development.

At the threshold of the 21st century issues of EU's internal security were strongly correlated with broadly understood international security. This is particularly visible in transatlantic relations with growing expectations towards the EU to play the role of USA's partner and to take upon itself responsibility for its own security to a larger extent than before.

Jadwiga Kiwerska, Determinants of American Policy towards Europe

New elements of American policy towards Europe can currently be observed in connection with recent developments at the beginning of the 21st century, including the emergence of new powers which challenge the USA. Since nowadays Europe only to a limited extent meets the expectations of Washington as an important actor on the international arena, it ceases to be a priority in the USA's policy. Therefore, America's pivot towards Asia/the Pacific will certainly not be without impact on transatlantic relations posing a genuine threat to their significance. On the other hand, it must be emphasized that despite other factors, common principles and values make Europe/the European Union a key partner for Washington in solving many global and regional problems.

Krzysztof Malinowski, Europe and the USA on the Future of the North Atlantic Alliance

Consolidation of the North Atlantic Alliance based on a new division of tasks and responsibilities is currently a key issue for the future of transatlantic relations. The new Strategic Concept of Lisbon (2010) was supposed to curb the discrepancies between the member states on crucial matters pertaining to the future of the Alliance and restore its unity. Those discrepancies resulted from a tension between NATO's original functions, i.e. collective defense and a deepening of transatlantic cooperation on the one hand and tasks connected with the post-Cold War role of the Alliance on non-Treaty area on the other. The Concept was to prepare the Alliance to react more efficiently to a new type of challenges like rocket weapons attack or cyberterrorist attacks, or challenges concerning energy security. Implementation of the Concept was hindered by such adverse factors as the effects of the financial crisis in the USA and the EU or the USA's strategic turn towards the Pacific. The Chicago summit (2012) launched a closer military integration of the member states and a new division of burdens between Europe and the USA as indispensable requisites of the Alliance's further existence.

Marta Götz, Economic Aspects of Transatlantic Relations

In the face of challenges caused by crisis, further limitation of intensity and scope of economic cooperation within the framework of transatlantic relations can be observed and expected. For each of the parties concerned their own economies become a priority. Within the EU coordination and resolution of internal problems can proceed at the cost of relinquishing or temporarily suspending progress of cooperation with the USA. At the same time, however, the potential offered by the setting up of a Transatlantic Common Market is a unique opportunity for both parties and can become a remedy to (post)crisis problems.

Ilona Romiszewska, China as an Economic Partner of the USA and the European Union

The object of the present study is the development of economic relations between the USA and China and between the European Union and China in the first and at the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century. Attention is drawn to the growing activity of China on the international arena, as this country not only develops its trade exchange but also becomes one of the world's major capital exporters and makes efforts to internationalize its currency. In effect we witness the emergence of a multipolar world, which marks the end of the one built on the transatlantic axis. Thus, the USA and the European Union face a qualitatively new challenge and increasingly engage in the whole area of the Pacific. It is also noted that the reasons of this Asian orientation are different. The EU seeks new possibilities of economic cooperation although both at the level of the community and the bilateral level many other various initiatives are realized. For the USA this involvement is not only a strictly political dimension but what seems far more important are the USA's efforts to limit China's sphere of influence built on the basis of a dynamically developing economic potential of this country. For this reason Chinese-European relations compared to Chinese-American ones seem to be more stable and do not comprise as many so deeply dividing contentious issues.

Artur Wejkszner, Engagement of the EU in Solving Regional Crises in North Africa

The article highlights a number of essential aspects connected with the EU engagement in solving regional crises in North Africa. The author shows that the EU does not have at its disposal adequate and sufficient instruments that could be deployed in reaction to the emerging threats to stability, peace and security in the region. It is emphasized that the EU member states which sometimes act unilaterally take into consideration the specificity of the Arab states and try to exert within the framework of their capacities a constructive influence towards reducing threats to the security of particular countries and the whole region, especially those of an asymmetrical character. A seminal example of such an engagement, discussed in the article, was the case of Libya. On the one hand it revealed the EU's highly effective contribution to resolving the humanitarian crises, while on the other hand it exposed the insufficiency of the international community's political-military commitment towards a prompt resolution of the Libyan crisis.

Anna Potyrała, Activity of the European Union towards Unrecognized States

The object of the article is to present and assess the stance of the European Union towards unrecognized states. The implementation of the idea of supporting peace and democracy, freedom, equality and respect of human rights, minority rights included – all of them being values in which the European Union's functioning is grounded – is especially problematic in relation to new state organisms. The EU is unable to take a uniform stance towards them that would allow to reconcile the right to independence with the necessity to guaranty the sovereign rights of the precedent states. In the cases discussed in the article the EU's stance towards newly created states is conditioned by several factors. The first of them is the desire to play a key role on the international arena that manifests in conducting activities aimed at warranting peace and security in regions troubled by conflicts. Another is a concurrent tendency to respect the basic principles accepted by the international community after World War II, i.e. the sovereign equality of states and the right of nations to self-determination. The external actions of the European Union are also shaped by the stance of other international key actors. The above mentioned factors determine the EU's stance towards unrecognized states, which is known as engagement without recognition.

Paweł Malendowicz, Anarchist Movement in Europe at the Beginning of 21st Century

The anarchist movement operating in Europe constitutes an element of an international (in composition) and global (in scope) anti-globalization protest. It does not oppose all the aspects of globalization but only those which are discrepant with the goals and values of anarchism formulated already in the 19th century. It co-creates, inspires or participates in such anti-globalization network movements as: No Border, Food Not Bombs, No One Is Illegal, People Global Action, Reclaim the Street, Critical Mass. Above all it opposes economic neo-liberalism and the consolidation of power, this time not just as the institution of the state but also as economic and financial centres.

Magdalena Dobkiewicz, Eurojargon. Is there a European Newspeak?

This article is an attempt to approach the idea of the European Union and its functioning in the framework of language, by means of semantic analysis of the main concepts of Eurojargon. The activity of the European Union, which runs into over half a century and includes official meetings, negotiations, countless documents and regulations, has contributed to the creation of abundant terminology. Official (given by the European Union) name for this terminology is Eurojargon. This phenomenon is presented in the framework of general EU terminology. The paper presents the results of an analysis of the main terms within Eurojargon. This specific mode of communication aims at nominalization of reality, and thus gives European Union a status of a separate "entity", as its highlights its specificity and uniqueness, as well as its mission of European integration. The article also covers to some extent the impact of Eurojargon on the Polish language and finally answers the question, whether Eurojargon can be perceived as a kind of European "newspeak".

Maciej Korsak, New Horizons of Europe. Deliberations on the Future of the European Union

The European Union is at a turning point of its development. The pragmatic dimension of integration, directed towards multiplying wealth which dominated the vision of the role of this community no longer suffices to overcome the crisis experienced by Europe. In the near future, a rescue and possibility of reclaiming by the EU the position of a global actor might be found in the tightening of relations with Turkey and Russia or even inclusion into the EU structures of these two countries that lie at the meeting point of Europe and Asia and have a growing economic and military potential. The role of the new member states which joined the EU in 2004 is not to be underestimated either. Their economic stability can prove invaluable for creating new alliances in Europe and shifting the emphasis from the rich West and the still developing East to stable North and the sinking into crisis South of the continent. Poland could become the driving force of EU's development, replacing France or Great Britain as Germany's partner. However, the problem that must be solved first is finding a new extra-economic goal that would unite European societies in which nationalistic tendencies and postulates to return to the Europe of Homelands more and more frequently come to the fore. When such a goal is found, it can become a new inner source of activation and enable the EU to return to the values on which it was founded.

Jacek Kubera, Algerians in France. What Integration?

The article presents the origins and phases of Algerian presence in the French state in the context of mutual political and economic relations between Algeria and France. The author discusses how the French legislation has changed to different groups of Algerian inhabitants from 1830 (the beginning of French colonization of Algeria), through 1962 (the independence of Algeria) to contemporary times. Trying to answer the question of integration of nowadays Algerian immigrants and French of Algerian descent with the rest of the French society, author points the difficulties caused by the history of the French citizenship policy.