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We must leave behind the logic of accession and assume the long term logic of integration



What challenges does the actual context bring for the European economic integration? Do you consider that these challenges change Romania's priorities?

Although the European Union is a reference actor in the process of global governance, the administration of an ambitious process of redefining the intergovernmental architectures cannot escape the international evolutions but, on the contrary, can establish its role of "experimentation lab" of the proactive responses to the changes of paradigm. In my opinion, the main challenges to which the authors of the European integration process have to answer are: *the adequate management of the equilibrium between an institutional logic based on conformation and a logic based on the pro-activity of the actors participating to "the interactive game"; finding as soon as possible solutions to the regulatory and institutional deficit; the management of the sensitive intergenerational dialogue and of the challenge relating to the nature of identity at the European level, the optimisation of the transition process from the economic competition to the geopolitical one; understanding the way in which the EU, as agent of globalisation, can win the competition with the EU, as a damper of globalisation and the manner in which the EU as a market wins the competition with the EU as a power; minimising the tendency towards any form of fundamentalism based even on the almighty laws of the market; the paradigm derived from managing the real subsidiarity, proportionality, cohesion and convergence.*

The Romanian decision-makers must understand that we have the right and the obligation to seriously reflect to all these processes and to actively contribute to configuring the adequate responses. We need to leave behind the logic of accession and assume the long term logic of integration, to reduce the isolation coefficient that we unfortunately have on the European scene, to abandon the rhetoric of the words and to embrace the durability of deeds and to rely on professionalism and professionals at the level of our representation in the European institutions.

Are we prepared to adopt the euro in 2014 technically, logistically and psychologically?

I think we can hope this optimistic target can be attained. The experience of other EU Member States which announced such reference data, should invite us to realism and prudence. If we refer to the nominal convergence criteria but, especially to the real convergence ones, things appear in a different light. The fulfilment of the stability of prices criteria shows a few challenges: one of

them is that of credibility – if the established targets are overshoot by significant price differences, the trust in the monetary policy can be lost; another challenge is the one connected to the evolution of the RON exchange rate, continued and amplified by the sensitive issues of the monetary and fiscal mix management. The health of the public finances must be rigorously supervised in what concerns the budget deficit component as well as the public debt component. The state of profound crisis to which the regional and international economic environment is exposed, hinders considerably this objective. The fetishism of accessing European structural funds must be transformed in concrete reality. All the societal, institutional or private actors must understand that attracting European funds is the right of any Member State which has the capacity and has acquired the necessary expertise in this regard. The sensation that the EU is forcing us to act in its own benefice and that we don't seem to want this must be put out of mind. We must intelligently avoid adopting economic measures for the sake of some successes, even brought to attention by the media, on the short term, overlooking the medium and long term objectives. There are still many steps to take in order to obtain the stability required by the Maastricht criteria, of the exchange rate. I believe that the National Bank has managed the policy of the interest rate with notable success. However, the interest level of the state securities in Romania is still significantly higher as compared to the same indicator from the Euro zone and as a result of the high level of inflation.

How does the economic and financial crisis influence the balance of forces in the international trade? Is EU's position as a commercial block consolidated in negotiations by the fact that the WTO Director, Pascal Lamy, is a former European Commissioner for Trade?

The actual international crisis will, certainly, complicate even more the equation of the multilateral commercial negotiations which took place within the Doha round. Two important risks are activated: a short term one, the lack of liquidity and a long term one, the escalation of the commercial protectionism. The balance of forces in the international trade will not change radically in the context of the economic evolutions fuelled by the crisis. I believe that having Pascal Lamy at the executive helm of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), for the second mandate, has brought more professionalism to the organisation. While the international official is a "contracted party" (an executive, in corporate terms), the WTO is run by the "contracting parties", namely its members. Therefore, EU's position as a reference trading block will increase, not because the WTO is being run by a former European Commissioner, even for the trade, but in as much as the European integrationist group will establish its role as the great and competitive global trade actor.

Will the Swedish presidency achieve the proposed objectives as regards the institutional changes at Community level?

The history of the half-yearly presidency of the EU shows that the role of a single country in attaining the important common objectives is not decisive. The progress, both in enlargement, as well as in consolidating the integration process depends, essentially, on the political will and on the solutions consensus. The priorities that Sweden sets forward for the current semester: *the world economic and financial crisis; the climate change; the cooperation in justice and home affairs; the Strategy for the Baltic Sea; the European Neighbourhood Policy; institutional changes* are very ambitious but very hard to achieve. At the moment when the European Parliament

is being reorganised in political groups and commissions, when there is still some time until a new European Commission will be operational, it is hard to believe that one semester will be sufficient to take notable steps towards the expected great institutional changes. Sweden's position on the European and international arena, the stature of this country's diplomacy and the indisputable professionalism of the Swedish officials which will preside over the European institutions can constitute strong points, which will certainly be used in setting the basis for a positive future evolution in this direction. I believe the Swedish will achieve more than other presidencies would have achieved, but less than it has been expected for a long time.

Interview by **Mădălina Barbu**

In Focus

EIR Agenda: August – September 2009

EIR Conference: series Romania – France: Together in Europe

10 September

EIR Course: Implementation of EU environmental policy by the local administration

21 – 25 September

EIR – EIPA seminar in the field of European negotiations

On the **12th and 13th of October** the EIR organises the second project in cooperation with the *European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)*, Luxembourg Antenna. If the first training session (14th – 15th May), prepared by EIPA for the participants recruited by EIR, was dedicated to the infringement procedure, the topic of the October programme is the European negotiations, with a focus on the **representation and negotiations in the EU Council**.

As it is well known, Romania takes part, as a Member State, in the decision-making processes of all the European institutions. In the Council of Ministers, the dossiers which are the object of the decisions in the High-level Committees and in COREPER are prepared by *working parties*, which are approximately 180 in number. In order to substantiate the Community legislative projects, high officials and public servants designated by the Member States, which participate in these structures, submit opinions and negotiate positions, complying with the conduct and practices specific to these situations. Within the European Commission, the representatives of the Member States participate in various committees, generally called "comitology". An important part of the mission that the representatives of the Member States have to accomplish concerns the negotiation of the positions they uphold, and their mere presence at the meetings does not guarantee the successful completion of the mission. In order to support their actions, the designated persons must have a significant number of professional abilities and competences, but also personal, specific.

The seminar is intended for *national administration civil servants who will carry out, or are already carrying out missions of representing Romania in the decision-making processes which take place in the EU Council*. During the seminar, the participants will acquire knowledge and competences designed to increase the efficiency of the negotiation techniques of the national representatives within the *working groups* of the EU Council.

In order to be able to exert their influence, the national representatives must, firstly, be acquainted with the procedural matters, such as the Rules of Procedure and Protocol, the power of

the institutional actors such as the Council Presidency and the Commission, the procedures and codes of conduct of the meetings. Secondly, the representatives will

have to know how to control the negotiation process, through tactic and strategic calculations, through a thorough planning of each contribution to the discussions, to show creativity, knowledge and competences in the area of public or private talks, to know how to use in a positive manner the information management instruments, partnerships and coalitions. Thirdly, the representatives will have to choose the right attitude for the interpersonal communication and interaction. Therefore, the efficient representatives must master several essential rules of the communication, socialisation and management of cultural differences.

The programme will provide guidance in an interactive form. There will be a continuous interchange between **simulation exercises, theoretical and procedural contributions, workshops and exchanges of good practices**. The simulations will be commented, thus providing feedback to the participants regarding the elements which must be controlled and/or influenced. The training experience will act as a laboratory in which the competences, knowledge and practices in the area of negotiation and representation techniques will be assessed, adapted and improved both from the technical and scientific point of view, and from the individual and interpersonal one.

The seminar will cover two days, using multiple training methods in order to be able to present the various key-aspects of a negotiation process: workshop (before leaving for Brussels), procedural matters and strategic considerations, negotiation simulation exercise, the assessment of the simulation exercise, the preparation of the negotiation instructions, questions and answers session.

Further details regarding the registration procedure are available on EIR's website, www.ier.ro.

Training in European Affairs Unit

The autochthonous Lisbon Agenda

General overview

In March 2000, the heads of state and government from the Community have agreed to transform the EU in "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy [...] by 2010". The legitimate concerns regarding the achievement of these ambitious targets, fuelled over time by the warnings of the Kok and Sapir reports, have materialised in the revision of the strategy and the objectives. However, with insufficient hardness. The constantly conservative policies and strategies, the considerable efforts undertaken for the enlargement of the Union, as well as the current effects of the economic and financial crisis, have put a damper on the Community's enthusiasm and ambitions.

Partial national reflection

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2007 – 2013 brings an exceptional objective, the most important since the Euro-Atlantic integration: *the rapid reduction of disparities in the socio-economic development between Romania and the Member States of the European Union. The target is set to 41% of the EU average (GDP per capita), in 2013.* Unfortunately, the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy regarding the growth and employment are reflected unilaterally in the NDP and the target and ways for creating jobs are not found in it¹. However, the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda regarding employment are mentioned and Romania's lags and trends at the time of the analysis are reflected.

Programmatic deficiencies

It is said that if a problem is well defined, it is half solved. Therefore, the same NDP mentions criticism from the European Commission's country reports, ensuring transparency and showing trust: "there was not a sufficient convergence of the different initiatives..., one of the causes being *...the poor development of the public policy forming process*". Unintentionally, the NDP further exemplifies such deficiencies, wrongly linking the full employment exclusively to the investment in human resources: "The full employment will be achieved through investment in increasing the adaptability, the employment capacity and the entrepreneurial activities, as well as in developing the public service for employment" (4.3. STRATEGY). This, after correctly linking the "still reduced capacity... to create new jobs" to the "Romanian economy". Moreover, the employment is promoted through coordinated economic and social policies, oriented mainly towards the labour demand. And the particularities of the business environment, the conditions for the establishment and expansion of enterprises, the work and employment flexibility, the social contributions are some of the elements of which deficiencies inhibit the creation of jobs.

...perseverance...

The implementation instrument of the re-launched Lisbon Strategy at national level is the National Reforms Programme 2007 – 2010 (NRP). The incorrect employment approach from NDP is maintained.

Thus, "the NRP objective for increasing employment (2007 – 2010) is *Increasing the participation on the labour market and promoting employment quality*". The stimulation of competition (participation) and increasing the attractiveness (quality) of work are necessary, but not sufficient in order to increase the labour demand (respectively the volume of employment) as imposed by the Lisbon Strategy. The economic development is the factor which can generate an increase in employment. It is not accidentally that the European Commission recommends an integrated approach of the reduced activity rate, of employment and of the reduced productivity level.

The cyclicity of national pride...

In 1930, in full-scale world economic crisis, the head of the League of Nations was Nicolae Titulescu. The national pride was sky-high, especially since our co-national's activity has been appreciated and his mandate has been renewed. Years later, in 2009, a new economic crisis of comparable proportions, finds us in the European league, fighting to achieve the Community objectives of economic growth and employment and to reduce the economic and social discrepancies. The pride is now unfounded. The specific country reports of the European Commission repeatedly criticize Romania's achievements and administrative capacity² and give appropriate recommendations. Leadership of the league is out of question.

...and the indigenous know-it-all attitude

We are not in the league of the indigenous Mr. Know-It-All character, but we need foreign referees in the global competition. We have learnt to challenge the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Community institutions, but we do not have better solutions. And it is necessary that someone watches over our political and administrative system in order to make sure it observes the rules of the game. The temporary distance taken by the International Monetary Fund is now costing us dearly. And only the benevolence of the High Gate of Brussels, whose good-will we have gained, bailed us out, less proud and, seemingly, without our consent. Until now, as the crisis is not over; and we do not know what is to come.

Reborn hopes

The Swedish presidency of the EU is preparing a new Lisbon Strategy, reinvented, which seems to promote the Nordic model as a pragmatic reference. We can hope that the EU summit in December 2009 will adopt a new strategy for the economic growth and employment for the next 10 years. Thus, the Lisbon Agenda seems to become a symbol of the EU continuity and of its objectives of progress. It is a renewed chance for Romania for revising its main programmes and strategies, through public debate. It would be an opportunity to achieve a needed concertation and channelling of the actions from the part of the main progress drives of the society.

Iulian Oneaşcă

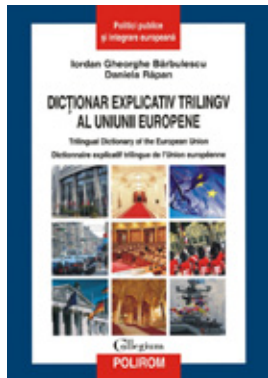
Head of the European Studies and Analysis Unit

¹ The sustainable integration on the labour market of 900,000 persons by 2015 – does not show the consequences on employment and does not constitute an objective in the terms of the Lisbon indicators.

² "Additional efforts are necessary for the radical improvement of the efficiency and efficacy of the public administration"; "The effective implementation of the necessary reforms depends critically on Romania's ability of urgently improving the efficiency and efficacy of the public administration", COM 2008.

Dicționar explicativ trilingv al Uniunii Europene

[Trilingual Dictionary of the European Union] Jordan Gheorghe Bărbulescu, Daniela Răpan, Polirom, 2009



Considering that 75% of the 499 million inhabitants of EU live in cities and that the urbanisation trend is amplified by the internal migration towards capital cities, the EU cohesion policy has a significant urban dimension.

Understanding it, the other Community policies and the basic concepts, discovering further types of information, studying the terms in three languages and their correspondence, all of these are now possible by consulting one of the most recent works

on European Union. Like the continuously evolving reality it explains, the dictionary is complex and comparable to the encyclopaedic dictionaries.

Urban is a Community initiative which supports the economic and social revival of the cities and suburbs which go through crisis situations. The initiative is financed through the EU structural funds, managed by the European Commission which grants these funds subject to the compliance of certain principles: concentration, partnership, additionality and planning.

The search of the term *Urban* in the dictionary opens a way to gathering information on all the initiatives and on structural and cohesion funds. For a more thorough study, it is necessary to refer to other sources, because this dictionary is a source of general information. Thus, further information on the Community initiatives URBAN I (1994-1999) and URBAN II (2000-2006), as well as on their evaluation, can be accessed on the website of the European Parliament, www.europarl.eu.

For the same reasons, other terms which might be of interest, such as *additionality* or *Community initiative* are not included in the dictionary. If we look at the same entry, we notice that the authors provide basic, general information on each structural fund, without going into specific details.

The work is structured following a basic principle in lexicography, namely the alphabetical ordering, in this case, of the Romanian terms.

Although, usually, the English and French texts convey the same information as the Romanian text, there are some differences between the content of the dictionary entries, which are not simple versions in three languages of the same text. Thus, if the terms *candidate state* and *état candidat* (*à l'adhésion*) are taken as such from www.europa.eu, for the term *stat candidat* the information is completed with additional data regarding the 2008 candidate states, the concept of *stat asociat* (*associated state*), etc.

Some remarks can be made **as regards the Romanian terms**, for example, regarding the entry *bunăstarea animalelor* (*animal welfare*), where the term *animale* (*animals*) is defined as *ființe simțitoare* (*sentient*

beings, êtres sensibles). Because of the obsolete literary connotations of the adjective *simțitor*, and because of the psychological connotations of the term *sensibil*, the most neutral translation of this phrase is *ființe dotate cu sensibilitate*, as it appears in a European Parliament resolution translated into Romanian – *European Parliament resolution of 22 May 2008 on a new animal health strategy for the European Union 2007-2013*.

We welcome the publishing of this work which is useful for all those who study the complex reality of the European Union, especially as it completes a series of working instruments made available to the public by EIR through TCU, such as The Style Guide and the terminological database, accessible free of charge at www.ier.ro. Terms, documents and important EU institutions, such as the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*, the *Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union* (CdT), *advisory committee*, the *European Economic and Social Committee* (EESC), *comitology*, etc. are available on EIR website, where they appear with their name in several languages and sometimes accompanied by definitions.

A new element is the inclusion in the dictionary of some personalities' names, such as Robert Schuman, one of the founders of the European edifice.

Thus, under the name of Leonardo da Vinci we will not find information on the personality of the Renaissance artist, but on the European programme bearing his name, regarding the vocational training systems and practices.

The dictionary also includes the cities which are significant for the activity of the European Union, such as Strasbourg (where the one-week plenary sessions of the European Parliament are carried out on a monthly basis).

An annex with maps accompanied by brief information on the 27 Member States (year of accession, capital, area and population) completes the book.

The **co-author** Daniela (Lică) Răpan was part of the EIR team and the experience acquired has been successfully used in this work, to which Raluca Brad, experienced translator from EIR also contributed with translations in English.

The launch of this book, hosted by EIR in June 2009, highlighted the actuality and the need for high quality works, as those Polirom Publishing House brings in its **Public Policies and European Integration** collection.

We warmly recommend this dictionary, every time the European matters require deep study, to both students and master students in political, economic sciences etc. and to public administration specialists and civil servants, translators and journalists, as well as to the general public.

Mariana Bara, PhD

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