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Professor Dame **Helen Wallace** DBE CMG FBA

Emeritus Professor, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science



Professor Wallace, given the current turbulent economic framework in EU, how would you qualify the reactions of the European institutions and leaders towards the accelerating crisis? Have they done enough to repair the damages and to prevent potential disasters within the Member States?

Indeed we are facing a turbulent situation and one which is, as I write, still far from being resolved. No one comes out of the story so far with much to claim by way of success. Initially the leading politicians and policy-makers have taken some short-term steps, but at each stage the dimensions of what was required have been underestimated and the steps taken have been inadequate. We suffer from a threefold challenge: the wider problems of the international economy; some design flaws in the operating system for the euro-zone; and the contingent problems of individual countries. Tougher action and more funding are both surely needed. However, the better performing countries, notably Germany, should acknowledge that they have been long-run beneficiaries of the euro and hence that their success has been the reverse side of the coin of poor performance by other partners. It is not enough for the Germans to keep arguing for more and more discipline from already suffering countries. And then we also need to turn our attention to medium-term changes, which for the moment remain under-specified ... **p. 2**

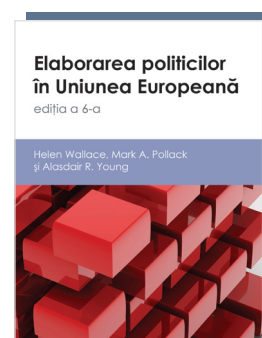
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EIR publication _____

Release of the Romanian translation of **Policy-Making in the European Union, sixth edition,** Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young (eds.)

Due to the interest raised and the up-to-date topics of the book *Policy-Making in the European Union*, coordinated by Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young, its translation and publishing by the European Institute of Romania aimed at disseminating the latest institutional evolutions at European level to those interested to acquire better knowledge of the European policies, whether they are practitioners, decision factors, independent experts, journalists or students attending European Affairs faculties ... **p. 9**



... In this context, what chances for survival would you confer to the euro-zone? Given the recent debates in the “French-German couple” and the challenges the euro-zone is confronted with, will we assist to a *two-speed* Europe, with differentiated integration levels?

SWe are still some way off knowing whether the euro-zone will survive intact. Better that it should but provided that it can be stabilised. As for the Franco-German couple, these two partners are far from having a jointly agreed set of remedies. So we still do not really know what the shape and content of a fiscal union would look like. So it is a bit of an illusion to think that the Franco-German couple can lead us out of the trouble. However, it does seem pretty clear that the euro-zone members need to invest in firmer arrangements among themselves, and of course ever since the Maastricht Treaty we have been accustomed to a degree of separation between euro-ins and euro-outs. But it remains vital to safeguard the vitality and cohesion of the EU27 for the rest of the Union’s activities and to safeguard the *acquis communautaire*. Every effort must be made, for example to maintain the single market, the four freedoms and so forth as the collective property of all 27 member states.

Regarding the Lisbon Treaty, what is your opinion on the effectiveness of the adjustments brought by the Treaty to the EU institutional system? Was the Lisbon Treaty enough to really reform the institutional mechanisms at EU level? What is the missing link to an authentic success of a reformed treaty?

I was always unimpressed by the institutional reform package contained in the Lisbon Treaty and its predecessor Constitutional Treaty. The prescription was always muddled and lacking a clear design blueprint. On the one hand the prior system did not work so badly - and indeed the detailed research done on the impacts of the 2004 and 2007

„We are still some way off knowing whether the euro-zone will survive intact”

enlargements shows that the institutional system was holding up pretty well. What the Lisbon Treaty did *inter alia* was to alter relationships among the institutions so as to make them more competitive rather than better synchronised. Lisbon has also pushed the EU into spending a disproportionate amount of energy on procedural and process issues which have distracted attention from the core policy activities. This is clearest in the way that the foreign policy arrangements have been taken forward. Over the years the institutional innovations that have been most successful have been those devised with very clear policy goals in sight.

**Professor Dame Helen Wallace DBE
CMG FBA**

Helen Wallace is a Professor in the European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science and an Honorary Professor at the University of Sussex. She holds various advisory appointments. From 2001 to 2006 she was Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence. Previously she was Director of the ESRC "One Europe or Several?" Programme, and held posts at the Sussex European Institute, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and the College of Europe. She has written extensively on the politics of European integration. Recent books include:

Policy-Making in the European Union, 6th edn., coeditor with Mark Pollack and Alasdair Young, OUP, 2010.

Visions, Votes and Vetoes: Reassessing the Luxembourg Compromise 40 Years On, co-editor with Jean-Marie Palayret and Pascaline Winand, P.I.E. Peter Lang, Brussels, 2006.

The Council of Ministers of the European Union, co-author with Fiona Hayes-Renshaw, 2nd edition, Palgrave, 2006.

Having in mind the sixth edition of your book on Policy-making in the EU, that we released on 13th December in Bucharest on the Romanian academic market (the Romanian translation carried out by EIR), which would be the most important areas and policies that EU needs to address more carefully in the near future?

Successive editions of the volume Policy-Making in the European Union have sought to include always the recurrent core policy issues and also to introduce policy areas that have become more important - and it is always a hard call as to what to include and what to omit without the book getting too long! My view is that the policy areas covered in the sixth edition remain pretty much the right ones. Maybe in the next edition there should be more of a focus on the implementation side of EU policy-making, since there is a kind of ‘delivery deficit’ in a number of areas.

Interview by **Oana Mocanu** (on the occasion of the EIR Annual Conference, December 13th, 2011)

European economic governance: crisis governance or governance crisis?

The new European economic governance and its quick progress towards structural reforms and fiscal consolidation aims to return to sustainable growth and re-establish confidence in the EU’s economic strength. It is one of the objectives discussed and promoted at the European Council of December 9th, 2011.

The Statement by the Euro Area Heads of State or Government, adopted on this occasion, establishes the intention to strengthen the economic union, through action in two directions:

- a new fiscal pact and a strengthened economic policy coordination;
- the development of stabilisation tools to tackle short term challenges.

The actions envisaged are also supported by countries outside the euro area, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Sweden, whose Heads of State or Government indicated the likelihood of taking part in this process after consulting their respective Parliaments.

The measures adopted by the European Council converge towards a reinforced governance. They aim not only to strengthen fiscal discipline and deepen European integration, but also to achieve stronger economic growth, enhanced competitiveness and social cohesion. In pursuing these objectives, Member States are building on the achievements of the last 18 months: the enhanced Stability and Growth Pact, the new European Semester, the new macro-economic imbalances procedure and the Euro Plus Pact. A new fiscal pact and measures to strengthen coordination of economic policies will reinforce the architecture of the Economic and Monetary Union.

The fiscal pact introduces new rules, among which we highlight:

- the principle of balanced or surplus budget and of automatic correction instruments, which are to be transposed into the national legal systems at constitutional level, under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice:
- monitoring by the Commission and the Council of Member States in excessive deficit procedure, according to a calendar and an economic partnership program agreed upon;
- strengthening the excessive deficit procedure provided for in the Treaty for the euro area Member States, by adding automatic sanctions.

Member States agreed to enhance macro-economic stability through a series of measures aiming at a stronger economic and budgetary coordination for the EU as a whole and for the euro area in particular. Coordinating the reforms in the euro area states will set the foundation for a common economic policy.

The European and Monetary Union, created by the Maastricht Treaty, is the essence of the European economic governance. It is greatly challenged by the impetus of the economic and financial crisis, which makes the European Union react in order to protect its structure, thus drawing attention to its flaws:

- the monetary union is limited to the single currency and the European Central Bank; its weaknesses deprive the EU of the source of financial stability, of the necessary fiscal transfers, of indispensable shock absorbers (e.g.: flexible exchange rate, Eurobond), as well as of ensuring economic growth financing,
- the economic union remains a target to be reached; the single market and the related regulations cannot limit cleavages in development or ensure macro-economic stability at the level of the whole, in order to support the single currency.

Achieving the monetary union registers the necessary steps - financial stability and fiscal discipline. Creating the European Stability Mechanism, advanced by one year, on July 1st, 2012, and possible additional IMF funding seem to substitute for the lack of a lender of last resort, a role which would have been incumbent on the European Central Bank, while developing numerical objectives, supported by the adoption of automatic sanctions for deviations from the targets is an important step in strengthening discipline, even if the adoption of sanctions remains politicised, given the fact that the breaches of the euro zone rules remained unpunished.

But, at the same time, conceptual dilemmas highlighted by the crisis do not find their expected solutions. The financial system comprises a systemic destabilizer. On the one hand, weak regulation and insufficient surveillance of financial markets continue to generate substantial risks. Increases in capital and liquidity are not sufficient to discourage and counter the speculative actions of powerful financial groups. On the other hand, Member States remain sensitive to the risk of contagion and contribute with public funding to save the banks in danger, increasing their sovereign debts. At the same time, banks continue to speculate on financial markets, betting on the instability of economies and of national currencies, thus increasing the lack of trust and the crisis.

The appeal to European intergovernmental cooperation, as an instrument for a more rapid progress of the institutional structure, ensures that the necessary steps are taken in order to strengthen the economic governance of the EU. But the measures undertaken are insufficient to counter the causes generating the current situation. That is why *crossing the river by feeling the stones* seems to remain the principle needed to overcome the crisis. Increasing the scientific approach, through studies and researches which seem to constitute the basis for measures of economic coordination from now on, lacks the political progress necessary to transform the EU's evolution into an intelligent and inclusive growth. Strengthening governance and policy coordination, as well as developing stabilisation tools, are insufficient to reduce the differences in competitiveness and good governance.

The Stability and Growth Pact, as well as its consolidation through preventive or corrective measures, is an important element of the EU's economic governance. Its force supports the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, but it cannot compensate for the absence of a European industrial policy or of a pro-active role of the Central Bank, favourable to economic development. That is why the path towards economic growth and job creation remains vague and the interdependence among national economies is increased mainly by complying with the market principles, to the detriment of less developed economies. Therefore, the European economy will gradually continue its decline in the global economy, which is favourable to emergent economies.



Iulian Oneaşcă

European Economic Conferences: Social dialogue and industrial relations to solve the competitiveness/solidarity equation Towards a social market economy for Europe

Between November 23rd and November 24th, the annual conference of *Confrontations Europe*, took place in Paris under the name of *Les Entretiens Economiques Européens (European Economic Conferences)*. The event was jointly organised by *Bertelsmann Stiftung* and *Astrid* and it reunited professors, European and national officials and European researchers and experts.

As partner of *Confrontations Europe*, on the one hand and taking into consideration its role in promoting European values on the other hand, the European Institute of Romania was represented at the conference by a delegation lead by its Director General, Professor **Gabriela Drăgan**. The delegation was made up of **Florentina Costache**, Acting Head of the Communication and Marketing Unit, **Mihai Constandache**, Acting Head of the Translation Coordination Unit and **Mihai Sebe**, expert, Studies and Analyses Unit.

The theme of the conference was *Social dialogue and industrial relations to solve the competitiveness/solidarity equation. Towards a social market economy for Europe*.

The event created an opportunity to debate the current challenges around one central issue: a new balance and new synergies are needed between competitiveness and solidarity. The conception of the role of the State and markets should evolve and unprecedented transnational cooperation is needed. The debates focused upon the necessity to identify answers to three fundamental questions;

- What should be done to guide the nationals of the Member States, during the current crisis circumstances, towards new perspectives for employment, training and activity, and how can a new social welfare be imagined?
- How to reconcile sustained growth with budget sanitation? And how to promote longterm investment putting the natural capital and the production and services infrastructures to good use?
- How can Member States converge on an industrial renewal, in the context of widening competitiveness discrepancies?

The debates focused on the idea that the European Union should renew its Growth and Competitivity Strategy in order to assure the prosperity of the Europeans within the framework of the current crisis affecting the financial and economic system. This renewal is even more important as the size of the public debt and the considerable economic imbalances between the Member States endanger the euro and the European Union as a whole.

Therefore the major initiatives launched at European level require a careful scrutiny, as often the austerity measures needed for the reduction of deficits risk to have recessive effects.



Sursa: <http://www.confrontations.org>

Invited at the round table *Social and human investment, an essential dimension for a new growth*, Mrs **Gabriela Drăgan** gave a detailed presentation of the current situation and Romania's evolution perspectives as an EU Member State.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.confrontations.org/fr/conferences/entretiens-economiques-europeens/les-eee-de-2011/1107-pour-une-economie-sociale-de-marche-en-europe-resoudre-lequation-competitivitesolidarite>.

Mihai Sebe

EIR's attendance at the conference „The future of Development Research” and at the Executive Committee of the European Association for Development and Training – EADI

The European Association for Development and Training (EADI) organized in Denmark the conference entitled „The future of Development Research” and the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association, both events being hosted by Copenhagen Business School, between 24th - 25th November 2011. EADI is a network composed of research organizations and institutes in the field of development and regional studies, aiming to promote quality in research and education in the field of development studies, as well as to encourage the dissemination of information and to facilitate the establishment of contacts between communities of researchers from the represented states. EIR will be part of the Executive Committee of the association until 2014, being the first Romanian institution to have this capacity, a fact which has been made possible by



the recent adhesion to the European Association for Development and Training of the Faculty of Political Sciences within the Babeş - Bolyai University, Cluj, as institutional member.

The conference „The future of Development Research: Exploring the Nordic perspectives” approached issues such as the challenges faced by the academic and research environment both in accessing project financing, as well as in disseminating the research results to the political decision-makers environment. Among the participants at the conference there were representatives of the academic and research environment from Nordic states, as well as representatives of the public institutions with attributions in the field of education and research. Several interesting findings were emphasised during the conference, such as the fact that Nordic states do not represent anymore the core of the European states with initiative in the field of the

assistance policy. At the same time, the North assistance model is going through a very difficult period, the research institutes concerned with this field preferring to focus on the research of global challenges and the general phenomenon of globalization and not on the achievement of some bilateral cooperation projects.

The agenda of the EADI Executive Committee included a review of the network's priorities for the next period, of this year's activities, focusing on a series of projects which the network intends to prepare in the next period. These include the initiative of establishing a scientific collaboration format between the network members, respectively working groups within which the EADI members are to draw up works and analyses on common topics of interest, such as the EU economic governance, the development studies, the role of the BRICS states and the phenomenon of globalization.

Agnes Nicolescu

Conference

“The future of cohesion policy in the European Union - Between convergence and competitiveness”, December 6th, 2011



The thirty-first conference in the series of events “Romania-France: together in Europe”, organised by EIR and the French Embassy in Romania since 2007, was held on December 6th, 2011. The main speech was delivered by Mr. **Emmanuel Berthier**, Interministerial Delegate for Spatial Planning and Regional Attractiveness (DATAR). The event was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr. **Henri Paul**, Ambassador of the French Republic in Romania. The meeting was chaired by Ms **Agnes Nicolescu**, Head a. i. of the Studies and Analyses Unit of the European Institute of Romania.

At the opening of the conference, His Excellency **Henri Paul** evoked the context of the event, referring to the challenges faced by Romania in accessing European funding and the obvious differences between the regions of the country with regard to territorial development. His Excellency also emphasized the fact that there is a clear political wish to develop the regions in Romania and that it can materialize in

reducing the differences between more developed and less developed areas.

Mr. **Emmanuel Berthier**, Interministerial Delegate for Spatial Planning and Regional Attractiveness (DATAR), emphasized, at the beginning of his address, the importance of the cohesion policy for Europe's future. In the first part of his speech, dedicated to the historical evolution of the cohesion policy, the guest recalled the process of regional development at European level, which began with the adoption of the Treaty of Rome (1957) and continued until 2000. After 2000, priorities have changed, with focus on innovation and the need to re-professionalise labour force.

The guest highlighted the importance of correlating different European policies and mentioned that the main objective of the cohesion policy is to achieve optimal regional coordination, which requires powerful intra-ministerial bodies. At the same time, Mr. Berthier declared that the economical imbalances among regions have increased during the last years, drawing attention to the fact that this tendency of polarisation needs to be avoided.

In the last part of his speech, the French guest referred to the future of the cohesion policy. It must be oriented towards clear goals and the cooperation with territorial communities must be improved. In his opinion, the cohesion policy and regional development remain the primary objectives of the EU policy, but the main purpose should be to ensure Europe's competitiveness worldwide.

For more details, please visit:

http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/arhiva_evenimente/

Mihai Sebe

« La crise économique : Les racines politiques de la crise de l'Euro » "The Economic Crisis: The Political Roots of the Euro Currency Crisis"



A round table on “The Economic Crisis: The Political Roots of the Euro Currency Crisis” was organized by the European Institute of Romania alongside the Wallonie-Bruxelles Delegation, at the premises of the European Institute of Romania on December 15th. This event is part of the framework-programme of the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF) for the training of Romanian officials. The programme entitled “The French Language in Diplomacy and the International Public Office” has as its main goal the consolidation of the use of French language in the European Institutions and international organisations¹.

The round table was opened by Ms. **Victoria POPESCU**, Minister plenipotentiary of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, National Correspondent for the Francophonie and Ms. **Fabienne REUTER**, Delegate, Wallonie-Bruxelles delegation alongside Ms. **Françoise ROUSSEAU**, Course Director at the French Institute of Bucharest.

Ms. **Popescu** underlined the importance of the francophony in the Romanian public system. On this occasion she made a brief review of the institutional relations between the Romanian Foreign Ministry and the OIF alongside last years’ main accomplishments of this cooperation process. The speaker congratulated the remarkable activity that the French Institute of Bucharest has in the linguistic area and the activity of the Wallonie-Bruxelles Delegation in the area of thematic seminars.

Ms. **Reuter** and Ms. **Rousseau** have detailed the activities of each of the institutions they represent and have underlined the importance and the role of the linguistic diversity that the francophony offers.

Ms **Amandine CRESPIY**, assistant professor, Bruxelles Free University, was the keynote speaker of the event. She adopted a bold approach, as concerns the ideas, underlining what she considers to be the three key „NO” of the actual situation: this is NO crisis of the euro currency; this is NO European crisis and, finally, this is NO economic crisis. We are dealing, however, with a political crisis caused by the lack of trust in the current system and the weak legitimacy of the euro currency.

The round table was attended by Mr. **Dorel PARASCHIV**, Deputy Director of the National Economic Development Institute and by Ms. **Cristina LEUCUȚA**, Director, Industrial Policies Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment. Mr. **Paraschiv** presented a national perspective on the crisis pointing out its impact on Romania’s economy. Ms. **Leucuța** approached the issue of defining Romania’s new post-crisis industrial policy, with emphasis on the development of clusters.

The round table was chaired by Mr. **Mihai SEBE**, Expert at European Institute of Romania, who has pointed out during the round table the political character of the crisis, a circumstance partially caused by the crisis of the moral values and the fact that the political class has not adopted the ethics of responsibility.

For further details please visit: http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/arhiva_evenimente/

Mihai Sebe

The European Economic Governance: the place and role of public policies Conference on the occasion of the launching of the book “Policy-Making in the European Union” and the second edition of EIR Excellence Awards

The conference entitled *The European Economic Governance: the place and the role of public policies* was organised by the European Institute of Romania and the Representation of the European Commission in Romania on December 13th, 2011 and was attended by Ms. **Helen Wallace**, Professor Emeritus of the European Institute of London School of Economics and Political Science. The event marked the release of the volume *Policy-Making in the European Union*, the sixth edition (Helen Wallace, co-author and coordinator, volume translated and published by EIR), the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the

Romanian Journal of European Affairs (RJE) and the second edition of *EIR Excellence Awards*.

In the first session, which focused on the importance of public policies in the European Union, Mr. **Leonard Orban**, Minister for European Affairs, mentioned the resemblance between the methods of public policy-making at European level and at national level, highlighting at the same time the atypical architecture of the European Union. The current economic crisis emphasizes the inadequate design of the economic and

¹ For further details please see <http://www.institut-francais.ro/Plan-OIF-formation-des.html?lang=ro>

monetary union and strengthening the integration can be the only solution for the EU to remain a relevant actor at global level.



The forecasts of the European Commission for 2013 were presented by Mr. **Niculae Idu**, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, from the perspective of the evolution of the government deficit, the government debt to GDP ratio at European level and the 10-year evolution of the yields of government bonds. Although the measures recently adopted by the EU involve transferring a part of the national sovereignty of Member States, it should be kept in mind that “EU’s welfare is the welfare of each Member State, of each citizen”, Mr. Idu emphasized.

According to Ms. **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of the European Institute of Romania, the current crisis has shown the existing vulnerabilities and the weaknesses of the European project, the measures adopted still being insufficient for laying the foundation of a common fiscal policy at European level. In this context, it is more and more necessary to show solidarity in order to find viable solutions to overcome the crisis.

In the second session of the conference, entitled **Policy-Making in the European Union**, Professor **Vasile Pușcaș**, Director of the Institute for International Studies, Babeș-Bolyai University, and former Chief Negotiator of Romania, highlighted the importance of the book coordinated by Helen Wallace, both for the leaders of Member States and for the academic environment.

Ms. **Helen Wallace** presented the volume *Policy-making in the European Union* and wanted to add that a new edition of the book would be necessary in order to keep up with the recent changes within the EU. The author also mentioned the risk of contamination which, in the context of the global financial crisis, concerns all EU Member States, and referred



to the European Council of 8-9 December, where the need to adopt a rescue plan and an intergovernmental treaty (despite the solution proposed by Germany to modify the EU Treaties, rejected by the other Member States) was agreed upon.

Mr. **Daniel Dăianu** continued in the line of the speeches on the economic governance and the euro area crisis, mentioning that the entire European Union currently faces a crisis of the European project, as well as the stringent need to overcome the crisis and to repair structural deficiencies of the economic and monetary union. He approached topics such as federalisation, the lack of promoting competitiveness and productivity, youth unemployment, associated with the lack of will noticed at political level and the fatigue concerning the integration.

At the opening of the third session, focused on **the European Economic Governance**, **Agnes Nicolescu**, Head a. i. of the Studies and Analyses Unit, mentioned the participation of important voices from various fields of activity, who intended to present a sectoral perspective on the challenges generated by the European governance.



According to Mr. **Valentin Lazea**, Chief Economist at the National Bank of Romania, the main challenge of the economic governance is the discrepancy between the reactions of European leaders and the real and current needs of financial markets. Thus, in the case of the European Council of 8-9 December, the answer of politicians was unclear and insufficient to redress economies.

The notion of governance was defined and explained by Mr. **Dragoș Pișlaru**, General Manager of GE Strategy & Consulting. Since the European Union has rules, procedures forcing Member States to respect the existing rules must be established. The European governance must also respect ethical values and rules. The conclusion of the presentation was that this aspect, supported by receptivity, participation, responsibility and confidence in the future of the European project, can help overcome the crisis.

Mr. **Florin Pogonaru**, the President of the Businessmen’s Association of Romania, identified the productivity gaps between the North and the South of the EU as being the essential reality of the current European architecture. In this respect, it is necessary to reduce these productivity differences which, in fact, will be the foundation of a stop and go year in 2012, with summits every two weeks and crises every two months.

Mr. **Cristian Ghinea**, Director of the Romanian Centre for European Policies, mentioned that, up until now, the criticism

addressed to the European Union concerning the lack of appropriate actions has not been justified, since the European Union did not have the necessary mechanisms to intervene on the market. Federalism and Romanians' confidence in the decision-making process in Brussels are, in his opinion, a normal consequence of the lack of trust in national politicians.

In the session dedicated to the **EIR Excellence Awards**, Mr. **Dan Petre**, Foreign Policy Analyst, referred to the European crisis as being an opportunity for Romania to bring an important contribution, by participating in European debates and in the decision-making process of the European Union.

In order to select the winners of the 2011 Excellence Awards, the Communication and Marketing Unit carried out an analysis of more than 60 non-governmental organisations, with activities in fields such as: fundamental rights, participatory democracy, social inclusion, education and environmental protection. Thus, two selection criteria were established: *volunteering* and *public policies*, and the criteria for assessing the organisations were: history (10% of the final score), visibility (10%), credibility (15%), internal partnerships (20%), external partnerships (20%) and the European dimension (25%). The nominations were communicated to a group of selection made up of the members of the Administrative Board of EIR and of the Consultative Scientific Board of EIR.

Mr. Lucian Branea, Executive Secretary of the Epsilon III Association, founder of *romania_eu_list* and the first Editor-in-chief of the *Romanian Journal of European Affairs* received an award for the entire activity. The laureates of the second



edition of EIR Excellence Awards are: The Romanian Academic Society; Pro Vobis; The Romanian Centre for European Policies; Paneuropa Foundation; Terra Mileniul III Association; Civil Society Development Foundation; Save the Children Romania; Junior Achievement; The National Organisation of Disabled People in Romania; World Vision; The European Institute for Participatory Democracy QVORUM; ANPCPPS. (The National Association for Consumers' Protection and Promotion of Programs and Strategies in Romania); Pro Democracy Association; AIESEC Romania (*Association internationale des étudiants en sciences économiques et commerciales*).

The full report of the conference is available on www.ier.ro

Gabriela Andreica

EIR publication

Historical Case-law of the Community Courts – reports of summaries, Volume 5

Launched in 2008, the collection **Historical Case-law of the Community Courts - reports of summaries of the European Institute of Romania** reached its fifth volume.

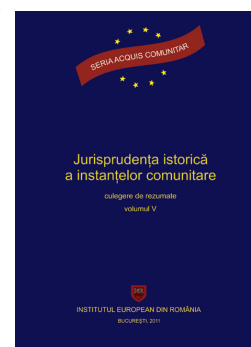
The collection is especially important for the experts in the legal field, theoreticians and practitioners, but also for the public, as it contains a selection of the most important judgments pronounced by the European Union courts - selection realized by the Court of Justice of the European Union - 1011 judgments in total. Thus, Volume 5 contains 130 summaries, corresponding to cases introduced between 1987 - 1990.

Although the general perception is that only the legislative part belongs to the Community *acquis*, we must state that the case-law of the EU courts has the same nature. Furthermore, the Community law principles, its immediate and direct applicability, its direct effect and its supremacy have been established by case-law.

Unlike the situation existing in the Romanian law system, where a judgment takes effects only between the parties in the trial (*inter partes litigantes*), the judgments and ordinances pronounced by the EU courts take effects „for all” (*erga omnes*), for the parties in the trial or for the national court which referred a question for preliminary ruling, as well as for the other courts of Member States, for the Member State concerned and for its authorities, for the other Member States and their authorities, as well as for all the natural persons and bodies covered by public and/or private law.

Moreover, their translation into Romanian, result of the collaboration between translators, terminologists, linguistic and legal revisers, facilitates the access to information of the interested parties.

Thus, the judgments of the EU courts appear as a very efficient means of information on the rights we all have within the European Union, and the reports of summaries, by capturing the essence of these judgments and by using a clear, concise and coherent language, however without forfeiting the legal rigor and the terminological correctness, meet this objective.



Violeta Ștefănescu

Release of the Romanian translation of **Policy-Making in the European Union, sixth edition,** Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young (eds.)



Due to the interest raised and the up-to-date topics of the book *Policy-Making in the European Union*, coordinated by Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young, its translation and publishing by the European Institute of Romania aimed at disseminating the latest institutional evolutions at European level to those interested to acquire better knowledge of the European policies, whether they are practitioners, decision factors, independent experts, journalists or students attending European Affairs faculties.

The first part of *Policy-Making in the European Union*, a reference book in the field of European Affairs, includes a description of the institutions and processes of the European Union, while the second part presents the European policies in detail and approaches various domains, including competition, economic and monetary union, common agricultural policy, structural funds, trade, environment, energy, external policy, social policy and enlargement.

The authors of the book *Policy-Making in the European Union* propose to the public the view that the European construction is a political system in which policies and policy processes created at Member State level intersect with institutions relevant at national, regional and local level, and also with the institutions created by the European Union treaties.

The Romanian translation of the sixth edition of the book coordinated by Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young has been carried out by the European Institute of Romania. The decision of the European Institute of Romania to translate and publish the sixth edition of this reference book was an opportunity to offer to all those interested in the European affairs issues a useful instrument which gives thorough understanding of the European Union's working mechanisms and, in the same time, favours an active contribution to the European construction.

The book is available for sale at the European Institute of Romania. Price: 50 RON. Contact: sales@ier.ro

Gabriela Andreica

EP

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NEWS 12-15 December 2011 plenary session, Strasbourg

This session of the European Parliament had once again a varied agenda which enabled vivid debates on current topics, all connected in some degree to the financial crisis and the expected measures, both for the euro zone and for the rest of the Member States. According to the procedure, MEPs, through the voice of political groups, but also through punctual interventions, expressed their opinions on the documents presented by rapporteurs and regarding the positions upheld by the representatives of the European Commission.

Thus, on Monday December 12th, the EP rejected the Council's request for the endorsement of a Protocol between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco. On behalf of the Commission, Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, deplored the delay in the EP's debate on this protocol, but she gave an assurance that the EP's decision would be respected. The fisheries agreement is part of the

policy in the field, through which the Commission wishes to stop abusive fishing practiced by third countries, especially since it can influence negatively the fishing in the maritime zones at the EU's external borders. In their rejection of the request, MEPs also invoked political reasons related especially to Morocco's regime and to the fact that it should pursue democratisation reforms.

The main debate on Tuesday was generated by the Conclusions of the European Council on 8 and 9 December 2011, which were accompanied by declarations of the Council and the Commission. The mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund, as well as other issues related to budget, financial stability and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund were subject to vote. The neighbourhood policy and the respect for human rights, common security and defence policy, the EU-Russia Summit were topics debated in the presence and with the participation of the Vice-president of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, as High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Wednesday was dedicated to the review of the Polish Presidency, followed by declarations of the Council and the Commission. The Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, emphasized the fact that the presidency exercised by his country proved commitment to the values of the European Union. This fact was admitted and appreciated by the President of the Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, who stated that the Polish Presidency rose to the expectations by promoting the idea of “more Europe”. The message of the Commission’s President was once again oriented towards the need for union, solidarity and cohesion. Then, President Barroso elaborated on the concept of “open Europe”, that is a Europe open in its relations with the neighbours, reviewing in this connection Croatia’s accession treaty, the measures taken and the treaties under negotiation with Georgia and Moldova and his future visit to Kiev.

The economic topic was subject to debate, especially from the perspective of the Draft Scoreboard for the surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances. By the questions addressed, MEPs sought to find out, among others, if the Commission has sufficient technical expertise, but also enough human resources to apply all stages of the new macroeconomic surveillance framework (the alert mechanism report, its interpretation).

In line with the approach on human rights in the European Union, the European Parliament awarded the 2011 Saharav prize to five laureates - Asmaa Mahfouz (Egypt), Ahmed al-Zubair Ahmed al-Sanusi (Libya), Razan Zaitouneh (Syria), Ali Farzat (Syria) and Mohamed Bouazizi (deceased) (Tunisia) - representing the „Arab Spring”.

Another topic of great interest which was subject to debate, the free movement of workers in the European Union, provided an opportunity for the Romanian members of the Parliament to intervene on the movement of Romanian workers in the current context.

On Thursday, the EP continued debates on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. The “Intelligent Energy - Europe” program, a report on EU’s competition policy, a report on the Single European Transport Area, as well as other current topics (health and safety at work, trade, maritime safety, public access to documents of the EU institutions) were also subject to debate.

During this session, the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, presented the review of his mandate, in which he mentioned that the crisis and the situation at the borders of the European Union remain the primary concerns for the next mandate. Since it represents an enormous threat to European citizens, the crisis is the priority of the institutions and the legislative package which has recently entered into force will require a closer cooperation between the three institutions in order to generate growth, competitiveness, investments and development of green technology.

The message of the President of the EP, in agreement with the messages conveyed, on behalf of the Commission, by President Barroso and the Vice-president of the Commission, Joaquin Almunia, European Commissioner for Competition, was the same: in times of crisis, Europe must show courage and solidarity.

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