

L'évolution de la zone euro au travers de la plasticité de ses frontières

Jacques BOURRINET

Abstract: *This paper deals with the making of the euro and the monetary frontiers of the euro zone, not overlapping with those of the European Union. At the very start of the monetary union, the dimension of the euro zone has been determined by the interplay of institutional and political pressures. After the last enlargement, only four small economies have managed to enter the euro. The present economic crisis has delayed the accession programmes of some new Member States. The central and eastern European countries are thus trying to ground their application on political criteria rather than on institutional ones. However the European Council has not given any positive answer to these claims. In the future the absorption of new members into the euro zone will be based on conditionality and adaptation of the structures of the monetary union, as it has to deal with a higher number of participants.*

Keywords: *European integration, Euro Zone, external relations of the European Union, Stability and Growth Pact, economic and social cohesion.*

Will the financial-economic crisis of 2008–2009 accelerate monetary integration in the EU?

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Abstract: *The subject of the study is to present opportunities resulting from the enlargement of the Economic and Monetary Union. According to the authors, the current financial-economic crisis can accelerate this process. An extension of the euro area is going to bring benefits, both to the whole EU and to individual member countries. From the EU's point of view the main opportunities lie in: 1) strengthening the international role of the euro, 2) deepening the financial integration and creation of a more unified financial system, 3) stabilising the EU's balance of payments and 4) verifying the fiscal policy principles. In terms of primary benefits for the countries entering and functioning in the euro area the authors identify, among others: 1) accelerating the real convergence and economic cycle synchronisation, 2) increasing the price stability, 3) improving the budgetary balance and the condition of public finances. However, there is a risk of introducing the common currency for the economies with lower GDP per capita, lower labour productivity and competitiveness. Nevertheless, the rise in macroeconomic stability, especially in conditions of crisis, exchange rate fluctuations and speculative attacks, can overbalance that risk.*

Key words: *European integration, financial crisis, monetary integration acceleration, benefits and problems of the EMU enlargement*

Investment Attractiveness of Special Legal Regimes of Economic Activity in Border Regions between Ukraine and the EU

Olha YEHOVA

Abstract: *The article deals with the investment attractiveness of the existing special legal regimes of economic activity (SLREA) in the border regions between Ukraine and the EU, for the business entrepreneurs of neighboring countries. Their potential for investment-attraction was underused, given the instability of the state policy in this sphere (moratorium on the expansion of existing and established new SLREA, simultaneous abolition of the state aid forms and guarantees of the stable legal regime to the economic entities of SLREA in 2005 etc.). It also indicates measures and initiatives of the state policy for improving the investment field and the international prestige of Ukraine, such as compensation mechanisms for "bona fide" investors of SLREA, recovering and restoring the state aid forms for the entities of SLREA, establishment of new structures and new forms of SLREA. These measures should again renew the interest of investors to SLREA in border regions in particular and Ukraine in general.*

Keywords: *border regions, special legal regime of economic activity, special economic zone, priority development territory, technological park.*

The Romanian – Hungarian Border, link or delimitation for the post-adhesion process of Romania and Hungary?

Luminița ȘOPRONI, Ioan HORGĂ

Abstract: *Today, Romania and Hungary are two countries sharing the same wish: to become active and responsible members of the new great European family. Even if the start was slightly differentiated – Hungary acceded to the EU in 2004 and Romania in 2007 – the post-adhesion evolutions of the two countries are demonstrating the same effort towards the complete integration in the European Union, through the adhesion to the Euro Zone. This paper intends to reveal if the border between the two states plays the role of either connection or demarcation between the economic evolutions of these two member-states of the European Union. On this matter, we will analyze the economic conjuncture, the evolution of the economic indexes and the condition of the different fields of the neighboring economies.*

Keywords: *border, crisis, European Union, member states, economic conjuncture*

Survey of Urban Competition between Szeged and Timisoara

László GULYÁS, Erzsébet SISÁK

Abstract: *Throughout history, competition between towns has always been present, either for power (Which should be the bishop's residence?), or for economic advantages (Which town could enjoy the privilege of organising fairs?). This competition between the regioncenters of the EU still exists. This paper presents the results of research related to urban competition between Szeged and Timisoara.*

Keywords: *urban competition, Szeged, Timisoara*

European Ecological Borders

Laura SCICHILONE

Abstract: *The article describes the evolution of the “ecological border” concept in Europe in general and in the European Community/Union in particular. After the Second World War the environmental pollution, caused chiefly by chemical plants, determined important changes in the perception of this concept. In this context the European Economic Community demonstrated a special experience of political cooperation in the environmental field. It represented a new perspective of ecological border. Another important step was the East-West re-unification, following the 2004 and 2007 enlargements of the European Union (EU). This article also describes the EU international role and the construction of a global political cooperation such as the last “ideal” ecological border.*

Keywords: *ecological border, environmental crisis, European Community/Union, environmental policies, European civil power.*

Aspects of sustainable development in Romania and its neighboring countries

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Abstract: *The aim of this study is to convey an image of the way in which sustainable development objectives have been undertaken and pursued by the former Communist bloc countries (Romania and its neighbors), over the last 20 years. The paper draws on studies that compare data from a series of countries and on its underlying project - Romania, towards a*

sustainable society (May 2008). By comparing the scores for these countries, obtained through a secondary analysis of data, the hypothesis that the situation in these countries is quite homogenous, as they have continued to be undermined by their similar communist past, was confirmed. We believe that these countries have understood the need for sustainable development, but they still lack the means to achieve it, as they are still trying to meet more severe challenges and priorities.

Keywords: sustainable development, indicators, Romania and its neighbors

The EU's Mediterranean policy. An assessment over a decade (1995-2005)

Angelo SANTAGOSTINO, Andrea FORNARI

Abstract: The ultimate of the Barcelona process was that of extending certain aspects of the European value system, such as democracy and economic integration, to the eastern and southern Mediterranean regions. After fifteen years we can say that this process has failed. In spite of efforts, including financial ones, progress has been non-existing or quite limited. The article focuses on economic aspects of the EU's Mediterranean policy, essentially trade and investments. The conclusions are that the main constraints to the smooth working of free trade areas are of cultural and religious origins. A divide that in the future could at best be smoothed but not removed.

Keywords: Mediterranean, EU, trade, foreign investments

The Migration of Poles to the European Single Market

Jarosław KUNDERA

Abstract: After accession to the EU, we observed strong wave of emigration of Polish workers to the EU partners. Polish emigration rose from about 1 million before accession to a peak of 2.2- 2.5 million emigrants. The EU member states, which were among the most important destinations for Polish emigrants, included: the UK (690 thousands), Germany (490 thousands), Ireland (200 thousands), the Netherlands (98 thousands). Contrary to the popular opinion, the Poles are not the most mobile people among the European nations: in Poland emigration represents about 2% of the working population, less than in Lithuania (3,1%), in Cyprus (3%), in Romania 2,5% and, in the long run, much less than in Portugal (9%) and in Ireland (8,2%). Polish emigrants were mainly young, energetic and well educated people, who found jobs especially in the construction sector, in agriculture, in the simple services field - in the restaurants and the hotels of the host country. The main reason for emigration was an economic one: lower wages in Poland than in the EU-15 member states and lack of jobs in Poland. Although these waves of emigration had some negative consequences upon the Polish economy (for example the brain drain in the field of medicine and computer science, while some branches of industry and services started to complain about the lack of adequate labour force on the local market), the yearly transfer of money from emigrants to their mother country was higher than 2 billion euro, and even reached 4,1 billion in 2007, which benefited the Polish economy. After the financial crisis in 2008, more and more Polish people lost their jobs abroad and began to return to Poland. Among the Polish emigrants in UK, one third declared their willingness to come back to Poland.

Keywords: emigration, Polish workers, the European single market

Turkey and the European Union: a Never-Ending Story or an Irrevocable Membership?

Nedime Lerzan OZKALE

Abstract: This paper aims to demonstrate that, given the actual level of advanced economic integration established between Turkey and the European Union, questioning the full membership and trying to discuss other alternatives represent futile attempts. Membership should be considered irrevocable by the European Union leaders if they want to adopt a model for the rule of law, by respecting the principle of *pacta sunt servanda*. On the other hand, the Turkish government should also put

rapidly into practice the necessary reforms, in order to accept the *acquis communautaire* and be able to assume the requirements of full membership.

Keywords: Association agreement, customs union, final stage, accession negotiations, enlargement, European Union, Turkey

État, marché et société. La question de l'équilibre dans la relation entre société et politique

Georges CONTOGEOORGIS

Abstract: *The author supports the view that the financial crisis the world is going through today is profoundly political and is due to the overturning of the balance between society, market and state in favor of the market. The market has become the dominant force not only in economy but also in the state, thus imposing the isolation of the civil society and gradually turning citizens' labor to simple merchandise. The right to self-regulate invoked by the market has led to deregulation and ultimately to the undermining of the normative logic of the economic process itself. As for that, the restoration of the balance between society, market and state will be feasible only if the society of citizens changes from private individuals to an institutional factor of the political system. In this way, the policies of the state will harmonise with the will of society and the market will return to the sphere of serving the common well being.*

Keywords: market, labor-merchandise, freedom, civil society, cosmosystem

Democracy as Form of Life

Andrei MARGA

Abstract: *The challenges of democracy have changed continuously since the emergence of the concept in the Ancient Greece. The end of 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century has found the international society in the position to manage democracy and democratical life under the constraints of the impact of globalization. The political transformations in Europe in the past twenty years have brought, in different debates, the inventory of democracy and the resources for democratic accountability. The main argument promoted in this article is that the contemporary changes accompanies the liberal democracy, proceduralist in its essence, and requests the democracies themselves the transition from the democracy understood as a technique of periodical choice of leaders to the democracy as form of life.*

Keywords: democracy, reform, culture, education, communication