

# Abstracts and keywords

Luca Bartolucci, *Il Parlamento italiano in uno degli snodi cruciali dell'integrazione europea: la ratifica del Trattato di Maastricht*

The article reconstructs some profiles of the parliamentary debates on the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. In particular, it analyses some aspects of the parliamentary debate on the ratification of the Treaty: the method (Article 11 of the Constitution, the possible constitutional amendments and the “timing” of the ratification), the parliamentary procedure, and, finally, the economic issues and the democratic deficit. On the basis of these debates, some concluding remarks are made on the form of government, the democratic deficit and the transformation of the “external constraint” after Maastricht.

*Keywords:* Maastricht Treaty; Parliament; Parliamentary Acts; Democratic Deficit; External Constraint.

Luca Bussotti, *Dalla SATO alla ZOPACAS. La costituzione di un'area di pace e cooperazione nell'Atlantico Sud in prospettiva brasiliana*

The study aims at analyzing the emergence of ZOPACAS, a large area of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. It was founded in 1986, and currently it is composed by 24 countries of the Latin-American as well as the West Africa Atlantic coast. The article here presented intends to explain the constitution of ZOPACAS through a privileged perspective: that of the Brazilian foreign politics and its relations with the United States during the Cold War era. Despite the close relations between Brazil and the United States, strengthened during the long era of the Brazilian dictatorship, Brazil always denied its adhesion to SATO (Southern Atlantic Treaty Organization). This project was strongly incentivized by Reagan administration, but it was aborted due to the pragmatic foreign politics of Brazil and to the position of Argentine after the Falkland war. Instead, Brazil promoted ZOPACAS, with the scope to improve its economic relations within the South Atlantic, provoking a negative reaction of the United States. As a matter of fact, the United States were the only country to vote against the institution of ZOPACAS at the General Assembly of the United Nations. The article ends with a short reflection on the current situation of ZOPACAS. This organization is living an evident contradiction: from the one side, it emphasizes its difficulties in dealing with the pervasive and military presence of foreign powers in the South Atlantic, as UK, France and USA; from the other side, the members of ZOPACAS need the support of such powerful states to combat drug trafficking and other illicit activities which are hunting the South Atlantic.

*Keywords:* Brazilian Foreign Politics; South Atlantic Interests; West African Countries; USA approach for Latin-America; Cold War.

Giovanna Tosatti, *Alle origini del Comitato delle Regioni*

The Maastricht Treaty created a new institution, the European Committee of the Regions, a consultative body of elected representatives, designed to strengthen the democratic nature of the Union and reduce the distance between citizens and the European institutions. The principle of a harmonious development of the member states' economies had already been stated in the Preamble of the Treaty of Rome, but it took the constant lobbying of organisations representing the interests of regions and local authorities and, since the 1980s, the joint intervention of the Parliament and the Commission to obtain institutional recognition. The organisation and start of work testify to the new body's desire to gain a political role in the complex institutional system of the European Union.

*Keywords:* European Committee of the Regions; Maastricht Treaty; Council of European Municipalities and Regions; Assembly of European Regions.

Antonio Varsori, *Il Trattato di Maastricht nella storiografia*

The Maastricht Treaty has been always regarded as a turning point in European construction, both for its institutional characters and the pledge to the creation of a common European currency. Such a relevance was a stimulus to a series of scholarly contributions by political scientists, jurists and historians. The article aims at offering a view of the more relevant books and essays on this event. It is pointed out that the early studies were the outcome of works by political scientists or scholars of "European studies", for example the book by Dyson and Featherstone. Historians appeared to be more cautious and their contributions began to appear when some archival sources became available. The article points out that most studies deal with the link between the Maastricht Treaty and the EMU, especially the creation of the Euro, its origins and its impact on the EU economy, with an emphasis on the relationship between the European currency and the EU policy on the occasion of the economic and financial crisis. One of the issues, which has been and is still debated is the characters of the Euro and its long term goals. The article concludes that the institutional aspects of the Maastricht Treaty and its implication still deserve further investigation.

*Keywords:* History of European Integration; Maastricht Treaty; Economic and Monetary Union; Historiography.

Ubaldo Villani-Lubelli, *Il profilo storico-istituzionale del Consiglio Europeo dopo il Trattato di Maastricht*

The paper analyses the institutional evolution of the European Council's profile after the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty). The author highlights

the historical dynamic within which the gradual emergence of a controversial institution as the European Council with a progressively increasing political weight in the European integration process takes place. On the basis of archival research and an analysis of the conclusions of the meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the European Community, the paper shows how the definition of the political-institutional profile of the European Council was gradual but always unequivocal by the task of political direction and coherent with its composition. On the other hand, this institutional profile was embedded in a more uncertain institutional profile given by the Maastricht Treaty to the European Union as a whole. Finally, the article also focuses on the principle of subsidiarity introduced by the Maastricht Treaty. Subsidiarity principle turned out to be a measure in order to defend the preservation of national governments' power and national sovereignty.

*Keywords:* European Council; Maastricht Treaty; Subsidiarity; National Governments; National Sovereignty.