

Abstracts and keywords

Alessandro Isoni, *From a Forest of policies to A Forest Strategy? For an Institutional History of the European Forestry Strategy (1986-2013)*

Starting from the first attempts of cooperation, dating back to the Eighties of the 20th Century, this contribution aims to explore how the European Union policies concerning the forest sector followed both an internal and an external path. The European Commission used the forestry sector as a privileged way to move away from the productivist approach to an agroecological paradigm. This arduous political operation was favoured by the prevailing attention devoted to the climate change topics and, particularly to one of its main causes, i.e., deforestation. Then, the contribution examines how the European Union greatly contributed to the forestry policies, through the adoption of many regulations and the establishment of committees able to create an original European governance, nonetheless the exclusive competence of Member States in forestry policies. In this line, the adoption of a European Forestry Strategy could represent a good example of this attempt to create a common space of cooperation among Member States and between European Union and European States, eventually leading to the affirmation of a new paradigm able to overpass the boundaries established by Treaties.

Keywords: functionalism; productivism; common agricultural policy, European Forestry Strategy; governance.

Carlotta Mingardi, *From Yugoslavia to the Western Balkans: tracing the evolutions of relations between the EU Institutions and the region in the 1990s*

The former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia is known to have developed, already during the Cold War, consistent economic and diplomatic relations with the European Communities – later, the European Union. After its dissolution, the EU institutions engaged very actively in the Western Balkans' region, taking at turns the role of peace builders, institutions builders, State builders and, lastly, Member States' builders, for more than twenty years. This makes of the Enlargement to the region one of the most important wagers for EU foreign policy in the new millennium. Starting from the last years of EC-Yugoslavia relations and setting a timeline that goes from the 1990s to the 2000s, the article reviews the most significant aspects of EU institutions involvement in the region. By analysing key documents of the EU institutions – the Commission, the Council, the Parliament – it aims to trace the different EU institutions' positions and how they evolved over time.

Keywords: European Union, Yugoslavia, Western Balkans, foreign policy.

Daniele Pasquinucci, *Il Parlamento europeo prima dell'elezione diretta. Le delegazioni e i gruppi politici*

The article examines the composition of the three main political groups in the European Parliament (Christian Democrat, Socialist and Liberal) prior to its direct election, which took place for the first time in 1979. Notably, the article analyses some political and prosopographical data of the members of the three groups in order to grasp the criteria by which the European parliamentary representation was selected. The political and biographical background of the MEPs provides an insight into how seriously national political parties took the role of the European Parliament. It also provides a clue to understanding the different capacities of national delegations and parliamentary groups to influence the functioning of the EP.

Keywords: European parliament, European integration, European political parties, Political groups in the EP, Members of the European parliament.

Christian Rossi, *The Brexit Referendum of 2016. Past and present in the relationships between the United Kingdom and the European Union and the case of Northern Ireland*

On 23 June 2016 the British People voted to leave the European Union, after a controversial referendum and more than forty turbulent years of membership. The referendum results forced Her Majesty's Government to trigger art. 50 of the Treaty of the European Union. This fact plunged the EU and UK in exhausting negotiation to find a way for an orderly exit. The referendum experience was not new in the United Kingdom because the Labour party called a similar one in 1975. This article will highlight similarities and differences between the two referendums and the political and diplomatic consequences, particularly for Northern Ireland after the 2016 Referendum.

Keywords: European Union, Brexit, Northern Ireland, 2016 referendum, United Kingdom.

Elisa Tizzoni, *How green is my Europe? The environmental commitment of the European Court of Auditors (1977-2020)*

The research aims to investigate the contribution of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) to the environmental awareness of the European bodies and the member states and its commitment to the cause of sustainable development. Even if the role of the Court in the "environmental turn" of the European Community is barely recognized, the contribution of the Court of Auditors went far beyond prompting accountability and transparency in the environment-related programmes and policies. Thus, the research sheds light on the contribution of the European Court of Auditors in the field of environmental protection, in order to assess how the Court supported the adoption of sustainable development patterns within the European Community and the European Union in the period

1977-today. The research merges methods and conceptual tools from environmental history and political sciences and relies on a vast array of sources, held at the Historical Archives of the European Union.

Keywords: European Court of Auditors, environment, sustainability, European integration, audit, financial accountability.

Valentina Villa, *Winston Churchill: A Founding Father of the United Europe?*

The paper analyses all the speeches, the articles, and the correspondence, both political and private, on the future of Europe written by Winston Churchill after the Second World War. From the renowned Zürich speech to the correspondence with Robert Schuman and Alcide De Gasperi and from the discussions in Parliament about the Common Market to the notes on the acceptance of the International Charlemagne Prize, the documents show the profound foresight of Churchill and his strong belief that the place which the Great Britain had the right and the duty to take up was at the heart of Europe.

Keywords: Winston Churchill; British History; Great Britain's relationship with Europe; History of Europeanism.