

# Abstracts and keywords

Sara Ercolani, *Il contributo della battaglia contro la tratta di donne e minori alla costruzione di un sistema internazionale a tutela dei diritti umani*

This paper proposes to analyse a period of about five decades (1880-1930) during which supranational intervention policies were conceived and developed to combat the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, in order to identify some milestones that laid the foundations for the institutionalisation of the fundamental rights of women and children. The aim of this paper is to understand the extent to which, during the period analysed, the work promoted by international organisations against trafficking in human beings formed the legal basis of universal rights that were definitively affirmed after the Second World War.

Keywords: trafficking in women, trafficking in children, UN, League of Nations, human rights

Aliesia Soloviova, *Young and restless: youth organisations of Europe and the USSR in the Cold War*

The present study addresses the development of the interaction between European youth organisations, with a primary focus on Young European Federalists (abbreviated as JEF, from the French “Jeunes Européens Fédéraliste), and their counterparts in Soviet youth organisations during the Cold War. The primary focus of this article centres around three key topics. First, it analyses the key concepts and discourses presented by the Soviet Union and Soviet Youth organisations during the All-Union Youth Festivals. Understanding these dynamics aims to enrich the interpretation of the image of the country that the Soviet Union was trying to convey. Secondly, through the analysis of the narratives that were presented during collaborative initiatives of US and European youth organisations, the article studies the perspectives of European youth organisations on the role of Western Europe in the context of the strain between the United States and the Soviet Union. It also explores the strive of European youth organisations for a greater degree of independence in the tense atmosphere of superpower rivalry during the Cold War. Finally, I take a broader view of how the messages conveyed by the representatives of the youth organisations correlated with the central ideologies. I argue that the emphasis on the role of the United States as a “guarantor of stability” in Western Europe substantiated the notion that Europe lacked sufficiently reliable defence systems necessary for effective protection against a possible invasion by the Soviet Union. This narrative also put forward the benefits of American influence that ensured the region’s security and prosperity. The article also focuses on the rhetoric of Soviet youth organisations and the image of

the Soviet Union as a “guarantor of peace”, which broadly used the idea of “liberating the world” during the Second World War in order to assert its authority in settling disputes.

Keywords: Cold War, European youth organisations, Soviet Union.

Eva Christina Müller-Praefcke, *Facing the Challenges of Integration: Egon Klepsch and Emilio Colombo at the European Parliament*

This article examines the contributions of Emilio Colombo and Egon Klepsch, two prominent Christian Democratic politicians of the late 20th century, to the advancement of European integration and the development of the European Parliament (EP). Both leaders, deeply rooted in the ideals of peace and solidarity, played pivotal roles in shaping the trajectory of European Christian Democracy, particularly through their leadership in Italy’s DC and Germany’s CDU/CSU, as well as their presidencies in the EP. Their transnational cooperation exemplified the collaborative spirit of European Christian Democracy, fostering the expansion of the European Union (EU) and the democratic evolution of its institutions. Drawing on archival materials, party documents, speeches, and existing literature, the article highlights Colombo and Klepsch’s efforts to strengthen the EP’s powers, transitioning it from an appointed to an elected body, which they viewed as critical for legitimizing the European integration process. The study also explores their roles in addressing key policy challenges and shaping the European People’s Party (EPP) as a driving force for economic growth and democratic progress. By maximizing treaty capabilities and promoting institutional reforms, Colombo and Klepsch significantly enhanced the EP’s agenda-setting role and its capacity to address the challenges of the late Cold War and beyond. The article concludes that Colombo and Klepsch’s visionary leadership not only advanced the institutional development of the EP but also laid the groundwork for a more integrated and democratic Europe. Their legacy underscores the importance of active, transnational leadership in strengthening the EU’s governance and addressing contemporary challenges, making their contributions central to the history of European integration.

Keywords: Christian democracy; DC; CDU; EPP; European integration; EP.

Luca Cinciripini, *Informal interaction mechanisms between the EU and NATO within the European defence regime: implications for institutional dynamics*

This paper examines the intricate relationship between the European Union (EU) and NATO within the framework of the European defence regime. Specifically, it delves into the realm of informal interaction mechanisms and their impact on the institutional aspects of the regime. By employing a multidimensional analysis, the study elucidates the various informal channels through which the EU and NATO engage with each other in matters of defence and security. These informal mechanisms encompass diplomatic dialogues, ad-hoc consultations, and shared strategic assessments, among others. Furthermore, the paper scrutinizes

how these informal interactions influence the institutional dynamics of the European defence regime, including decision-making processes, policy coordination, and the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the EU and NATO. By shedding light on the nuanced interplay between formal institutional structures and informal interaction mechanisms, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolving dynamics within the European defence landscape.

Keywords: EU; NATO; Practices; International organisations; European defence