

History of European Integration

Lecture 8. The golden age for European integration. The Single European Act

- The module is realized in the frame of the project "Enhanced Skills and COmpetences in European Studies for Landscape ARchitects, environmental specialists and managers" (project number: 611545-EPP-1-2019-1-RU-EPPJMO-MODULE), Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions.



The 1980s- issues and inputs

- Deregulation
- Institutional conflicts
- Eurosclerosis
- Euroscepticism
- New Council election method
- Input to the European Parliament
- Laying the solid foundations of monetary union
- Accession of Greece - 1981
- New Enlargement (Portugal and Spain)- 1986

Margareth Thatcher and Jacques Delors

- Margareth Thatcher. British conservative leader
- Jacques Delors. French bureaucrat of Gauchist matrix
- An uncompromising liberal, willing to reaffirm the national prerogatives
- pro-European (but neither federal nor confederal). Highlights the defects of the European market. How to solve the problems of economic integration?

Plans for a European Union

- The Commission's proposals
- The German-Italian proposals
- The European Parliament's proposals

European Political Cooperation (EPC)

- On 13 October 1981 at a meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers in London. The London Report came in the wake of an urgent appeal made in November 1980 by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary and future Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It reasserted the willingness of the Ten to adopt a coherent and concerted approach to international and security issues. The report included the obligation for consultation before any national initiatives on foreign policy questions affecting all the Member States were launched
- The German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, called for a strengthening of EPC in a speech he made in Stuttgart on 6 January 1981

A People's Europe

- Public opinion and the Eurobarometer
- The European passport

The start of the Golden Age of integration

- 1983 - Declaration of G.D. Genscher - E. Colombo
- 1984 M. Thatcher in Fontainebleau: report calling for deeper economic integration and better foreign policy cooperation. The UK rebate with other EU members. The aim was to correct for the apparent imbalance in the UK contribution at the time. The UK rebate was ratified and then implemented in May 1985.
- 1984- Draft Treaty on the European Union- A. Spinelli
- 1985- J. Delors White Paper
- F. Mitterrand and G. Kohl

Genscher-Colombo Declaration

- Deep integration
- Democratic principles and respect for human rights of member countries
- Coherence and coordination on common policies, also in relation to more efficient decision-making procedures;
- First institutionalization of the European Council
- Strengthening of the powers of the European Parliament
- Coordination on economic, monetary, internal market, industrial policies and agriculture
- Strengthening of foreign policy coordination in the framework of European political cooperation
- Cultural cooperation
- Harmonization legislation

Draft Treaty on the European Union 1984 - A. Spinelli

- **The Federalist Movement.** Spinelli believed that intergovernmental cooperation with full national sovereignty in organizations like the OECD and the Council of Europe was not sufficient. For this reason, he was steadfastly committed to further integration
- **The Crocodile Club.** The Crocodile Club wanted a new European treaty. The members tabled a motion for the Parliament to set up a special committee to draft a proposal for a new treaty on the European Union, to be anything but in name a constitution of Europe
- **The Spinelli Plan.** The document did provide a basis for the Single European Act of 1986 and for the Maastricht Treaty of 1992

The Single European Act- 1986

- A new momentum to European integration to complete the internal market
- The inter-governmental negotiations which culminated in the SEA had a dual mandate to conclude: a Treaty relating to common foreign and security policy, and an act amending the EEC Treaty, particularly with regard to: the decision-making procedure within the Council; the powers of the European Commission; the powers of the European Parliament; the extension of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community's responsibilities
- The SEA introduced several new policy areas in which decisions would be taken by qualified majority. These included: internal market; economic and social cohesion — to counterbalance the effects of the completion of the internal market on less developed regions; social policy — 2 new aspects of this policy, health and safety at work and social dialogue between trade unions and employers; research and development; environment — introducing the subsidiarity principle (i.e. only taking measures at European level where they are more effective than at the level of an individual country); and common foreign policy — with the presidency of the Council responsible for initiating action and coordinating member countries' positions

The Ratification

- A confirmation of its 'right to veto' (Great Britain)
- Denmark felt the treaty gave the European Parliament too ample power. It's Parliament later (21 January 1986) rejected the Single Act draft, forcing the government to hold a referendum which ended in the approval of the new instrument (Feb. 1986)
- The Italian government expressed reservations and decided to postpone signing until all member states were in a position to do so



The dilemmas of SEA

- Incomplete implementation of the Single Market: “The Cost of Non-Europe”?
- Positive or negative integration?
- The end of the Spinelli’s dream?
- Europe - aspiration rather than definite concept?
- New stage of European integration. Substantially insufficient evaluation process and critical participation?

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