

[*Budgetary philosophy*]

IAIN BEGG

15 **The Financing of the European Union**

Despite strong political objections in some of the member states, along with deepening integration the arguments for creating a true federal budget for the Union are becoming more and more salient. The role of the EU budget will progressively become more pronounced in European politics. It is unrealistic to expect that those changes will come about very swiftly. It is worthwhile, however, to explore all the possible options aimed at breaking the impasse concerning the reform of the EU budgetary policy.

MICHAEL SHACKLETON

70 **Negotiations Concerning the 1988 Inter-institutional Agreement**

The crisis in which the Communities found themselves in 1988 was very acute, even by European standards. The whole future of the Communities' finances and thus the future of its policies were seriously jeopardized. At the Copenhagen Summit in December 1987 the member states and the European Parliament could not agree where to find the necessary additional funding without breaching budgetary discipline. There was a clear and present danger that the whole system of EC finances will break down.

JIM ROLLO

84 Agriculture, Structural Funds and Budget after the EU Enlargement

In April 1994 Richard Baldwin claimed that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe were too poor and too much dependent on farming to become members of the European Union within the next twenty years. If one were to assume that it is impossible to contemplate enlargement without finding the means to finance it, enlargement was not a feasible option, unless after accession the candidate countries were to be treated as second-category members.

RAFAŁ TRZASKOWSKI

106 The Role of the European Parliament in the Budgetary Procedure

Until the mid-seventies the European Parliament played a secondary part in the Communities' institutional architecture. Its powers were comparable to that of a discussion club or at best a consultative assembly. The endowing of the Parliament with budgetary prerogatives was to radically change that state of affairs. The European Parliament started to use its newly acquired powers to promote concrete political choices. The increased role was accompanied by increased aspirations. Gaining the budgetary competences constituted the first step on the way to transform the European Parliament into an equal player in the legislative process.





[*Great Britain, Spain, Poland*]

ALAN MAYHEW

134 **British Position Concerning the Negotiations of the Financial Perspective at the Outset of the Presidency**

Great Britain, just as France and Spain, has been traditionally seen as the toughest partner in the negotiations concerning the budget of the European Union. The lack of agreement concerning the financial perspective 2007-2013 at the June 2005 EU summit only reinforced that negative opinion. What were the main assumptions underlying the budget negotiating strategy of the British Presidency?

JOSÉ I. TORREBLANCA

154 **Saying Goodbye to the Funds? The Key for Understanding the Spain's Position in the Negotiations of the Financial Perspective 2007-2013**

In June 2005, when the debate concerning the financial perspective 2007-2013 was at its most heated, Spain celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of its accession to the Community. In the past two decades this country has undergone impressive changes - due to the change of the authoritarian regime it has finally done away with the years of international isolation. Today's Spain faces another great change. After the long years of being a beneficiary of Community assistance it is bound to graduate to the club of net payers which support the poorer new member states. Today Madrid's main dilemma is how to make that transformation least painful?

JAN OLBRYCHT

177 **The Importance of the Cohesion Debate in the Process of New Financial Perspective Preparations - Consequences for Poland**

Attempts at reducing the funding for cohesion policy in the name of changing EU priorities have always characterized the debate concerning the establishment of a financial perspective. Making an absolute priority out of the Lisbon Strategy and labelling cohesion as too traditional or even obsolete would result in either drastic reduction of its funding or changing its very philosophy. Cohesion policy should still, however, be foremost about reducing the economic and social disparities between the various regions of the Union.

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Rapporteur: Alain Lamassoure
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222 **New spiritual dimension of enlarged European Union**

Accession of ten new member states to the European Union in 2004 is quite often presented in terms of economic costs and benefits. Sometimes enlargement is also seen as an act of historical justice. When the citizens of the EU had a chance of pronouncing their opinion on the future of integration, through the process of the constitutional treaty ratification, their views were reduced to fears concerning “the Polish plumber” or delocalisation of capital. Enlargement, however, should also be interpreted as a spiritual process, in a sense a re-establishment of the European community itself.

PANAJOTIS KONDYLLIS

228 **Europe at the dawn of the 21st century**

According to the founding myth, on which the sacrosanct rhetoric of the European Union itself is based, the nations of the continent, taught by bitter historical experience, finally embarked on the path of infinite wisdom propelled by unquestionable will of peaceful co-existence founded on economic and political institutions. When we analyse the history and philosophy of European integration, however, the genesis of the Union turns out to be much more complex.





[*Reviews*]

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EUFEMIA TEICHMANN, MARZENNA A. WERESA (ed.), *Enlarged European Union and its Eastern Neighbours. First Experience of Cooperation*, Warsaw 2005.

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