



the existence of three powers: legislative, executive and judiciary. It is impressive development of the Union, the waves of enlargement, the permanent adaptation and the changes brought by the treaties.

## **Chapter 2: The link with the citizens: Elections and interest groups**

The European elections, even if they were classified as national elections of second rank, are actually useful for the democratization of the European Union. The interest groups also contribute to a better link between citizens and institutions of governance of the Union.

The first European elections were held in 1979 and then every 5 years. The vote presence has been constantly declining, and a new phenomenon is the migration of votes from classic parties to new parties, protest ones. The European elections were however considered to be national elections of second rank, often through them the citizens showing their disapproval towards the situation of their country.

The Union comprises 27 countries and approximately 15,000 lobbyists representing various interests. The purpose of lobbying activity is influencing the decisions and there are two kinds: internal and external. Of all the work we can underline one component: the possession of information. No less important is its transmission, and also the possession of persuasive skills.

## **Chapter 3: Legislative Policy**

The legislative policy of the European Union is the result of a process of negotiation between the three main EU institutions (the Commission, the Council and the Parliament). The power of each one of them depends upon the legislative procedure applied (consultation, assent and co decision).

If there are considered the cases presented to the ECJ there can be an inter-institutional conflict, but when we speak about the legislative policy we mustn't lose sight of the procedure. As regards the procedures, here are also observed the development and change of the share of procedures. Since 1993, by extending the co-decision procedure, it was an attempt to give greater powers to Parliament, which is consulted and given the right of veto. However, the Parliament does not have legislative initiative.

## **Chapter 4: Executive Policy**

The executive policy of the European Union can be defined as a relationship of delegation between a principal (legislature, the tandem Council-Parliament) and an agent (the European Commission). The degree of discretionary authority will depend on how divergent are the principal and agent preferences and the complexity of the legislative domain. The legislature has a multitude of forms of control of the Commission.

The Commission is responsible for the budget execution, law enforcement, has the monopoly of legislative initiative, administers funds and is delegated by the Council with certain responsibilities but a constant in this process is uncertainty, thus there might be the possibility of certain discretionary powers entrusted to it. There should not be missed the fact that the executive power is applied both by the Commission and the member states, part of legislation being implemented by states. To avoid the abuse of the legislative power, it has a series of control procedures: the motion of censure, the adoption of new legislation - and methods of post-legislative control: the committee procedure which takes place simultaneously with the implementation of policies.

## **Chapter 5: Judicial Power**

The Court of Justice is active and it has promoted the European integration more than the member states could approve within the Council, the main reason being that the judges decide by a simple majority instead of a qualified majority or unanimity. The member states hold the power to appoint judges and renew them, which is a form of control of a possible excessive activism of the judges.

The community treaties have a direct effect and enjoy of supremacy in relation to the national legislation. By the existence of the ECJ, the member states are no longer tempted to break the law. It shouldn't be forgot the mutual recognition principle, the basic principle for marketing in the EU.

However, it is thought that the ECJ has representativeness issues. While it has the feature of variety it doesn't assure the representativeness, a state with a small population being considered as same as a state with a large population. Also, another problem is the lack of transparency in appointing judges and the operation of the Court.

## **Chapter 6: Monetary and Fiscal Policy**

The monetary policy pursued by the Central European Bank is a struggle between states with higher economic growth (which want higher interest rates) and states with a lower growth which want lower interest rates. The rule one-state-one-vote makes the decisions of the European Central Bank not always in the interest of citizens.

The monetary policy decisions are taken by the Council of the Governors of the CEB, composed of members of the Executive Committee (President, Vice-President and four other members) and the national central bank governors of the countries that have adopted the euro. The primary objective of monetary policy is to ensure price stability. Thus, is observed the level of inflation of the member states, there are controlled the interest rates and the public deficit.

## **Chapter 7: Institutional Organization**

The internal organization of the EU institutions is a balance between specialization (division of labor) and coordination. We speak of Parliament and parliamentary committees, the Council of the European Union and the Council unities, the Commission, Commissioners and portfolios, the Court of Justice and the specific courts. The distribution of power involves both costs and benefits.

## **Chapter 8: Coalition formation**

Coalition formation in the EU institutions can be considered (*a priori*) using mathematical indices of power and (*post*) by analyzing the results of voting. Forming coalitions is a complex, interesting process to observe. Significantly for this chapter is the quote: "If the voting power established by a treaty is a solid foundation, the one who entrust his future in the preferences of its allies, builds on weak foundation."

## **Chapter 9: Democracy and reform**

The European Union can be more democratic than it is now. It is necessary to reform the institutions and procedures. The democratic deficit, the lack of demos, the of back regionalism, the criticism of democracy in Europe, the enlargement process and the need for a "constitution", all these issues are addressed in the last chapter.

The *Government of the European Union* is not a treaty which addresses scientific specialists but is also a book that can answer the questions of all of readers, be they teachers, students of

Political Science and International Relations and European studies, and researchers, masters or simple citizens eager to understand how the European Union works.

EU is not a state, but having in regard all the matters presented in this paper, we can consider that it may be classified as a potential democratic political system.

