European Federalism

What’s ahead of us?

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I. There exist

A. Federal institutions
   - The EU Parliament
   - The EU Commission
   - The Court of Justice
   - The European Central Bank
I. There exist

B. Common Policies

Exclusive competence of the EU
- Monetary policy
- Commercial policy
- Customs union
- Common fisheries policy
- Antitrust and competition control policy at EU level

Shared competence
- Internal market
- Agriculture
- Environment and consumer protection
- Economic and social cohesion (structural funds)
I. There exist

c. Decision-making mechanism

Majority voting

• With regard to a considerable proportion of legislation
• In the framework of treaties whose adoption requires unanimity

Subsidiary principle

• Guarantees the prior right to act at the national government levels (decentralization)
• It determines a space for the expansion of EC competences (centralization)
II. It is weakened

A. For political reasons

- After the Double No Vote in France and the Netherlands, Europe is considered by politicians to be a « counter-productive » topic
- The Franco-German leadership has broken down
II. It is weakened

B. For economic reasons
   • Lack of real economic policy coordination in the eurozone (Role of the Eurogroup?)
   • Failure of the Lisbon Strategy
II. It is weakened

c. For legal reasons
   • The decision-making process is unbalanced (not proportionate)
   • The existence of three pillars is more and more difficult to justify
III. Where must we go?

A. How to give teeth to the Lisbon strategy?
   • Making it more constraining
   • Towards a European tax system to fund projects in the European general interest
III. Where must we go?

B. How to ensure Europe’s independence?

- Building a common Energy policy
- Building a truly common Defense policy
III. Where must we go?

c. How to strengthen Europe’s democratic dimension?

- Political transition towards democracy in European countries: a time success
- Democratization of the EU: the big question
To conclude: The motives for establishment of a Federal model in Europe have not changed.

What are the goals?

1951
- Protection of democracy in Europe vis-à-vis the soviet bloc
- Reinforcement of Europe’s competitiveness to ensure political independence and economic welfare

Today
- Bolstering of Europe’s competitiveness in a new global environment
- Maintaining Europe’s independence through coordinated policy making (Defense, energy)
To enhance the wealth of a nation (“Europe”…), every man (woman…), consistent with the law, should be “free to pursue his own interest his own way, and to bring both his industry and capital into competition with those of … other … men.”

Adam Smith (1776)
A step by step approach

"Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan: It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity"

Robert Schuman (1950)