

REVIEWS AND ANNOTATIONS

Šišková, Naděžda (ed.). *The European Union – What is Next?* Köln: Wolters Kluwer, 2018, 348 pp.

In the context of Brexit, migration crisis or single currency problems, it is time to ask a question: The European Union – What is Next? This is also a title of a monograph edited by Naděžda Šišková which represents an output of the project in the category of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in EU law. A plenty of scholars from various European countries and universities contribute in this book, namely Palacky University in Olomouc (Czech Republic), Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic), Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic), College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium), Heidelberg University (Germany), University of Regensburg (Germany), Pan-European University in Bratislava (Slovakia), Tallin University of Technology (Estonia), Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary), and Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University (Ukraine).

A number of crises which the European Union has been struggling with necessarily leads us to think and search for answers to fundamental questions. Is the best solution for the European integration to confer more and more competences by the Member States upon the EU? Is this approach necessary, effective and widely accepted by the Member States and their citizens when the Member States almost abandoned referenda in the process of ratification of revision treaties? Has the EU legitimacy to enforce the observance of democracy and rule of law principles in the Member States whilst it keeps suffering from democratic deficit itself? Is the rather overregulated Union legal system sustainable? What is the final shape of the European integration? Is it really the European federation presumed by the Founding Fathers of the EU or something else? The authors deal with many issues, presenting their views to these pressing questions, and thus contribute to the ongoing debate on the future of the European Union.

The monograph is introduced with the preface by Věra Jourová, the Member of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Gender and Equality, and it is divided into six parts covering institutional as well as substantive law of the EU. The first and the second parts are devoted predominantly to institutional matters, division of competences between the EU and its Member States and values of the EU. When considering the reform of the EU, institutional changes usually come into play. The authors deal with possible reform of the Union bodies where the one concerning the European Parliament is probably the most significant. The reinforcement of the European Parliament is one of the methods to remove the aforementioned democratic deficit. In this connection, the introduction of the right of legislative initiative of the European Parliament is mentioned, as well as changes of the European electoral system, closer link between the establishment of the European Commission and the elections to the European Parliament, democratising the European Monetary Union (EMU), democratising the EU's external action etc.

The third and the fourth parts of the monograph concern monetary and fiscal matters and the area of freedom, security and justice. As to the EMU, one of the authors deals with the crucial question whether there will be the fiscal union which is supported by the Commission and the majority of the Member States. However, the answer is unclear since a coherent group of Member States supports the idea of stability union instead.

The fifth and the sixth parts are focused on external relations and visions and ideas of political leaders in the EU and its Member States. When it comes to The White Paper on the Future of Europe presented by the President of the European Commission Juncker in 2017, containing five known scenarios of the EU after Brexit, the analysis shows that opinions of the Member States vary. Although many Member States prefer the “Carrying on” scenario, other Member States hold a different view (they prefer, for instance, the option “Those who want more do more”). It is evident that heterogeneous approaches of the Member States will be challenging for the future of the European integra-

tion. Some authors analyse the issue of intergovernmentalism and a possible revival of intergovernmental method of cooperation between Member States. Indeed, this method may be viable in certain areas, it may enable solving problems without forcing all Member States to participate. This method has been successfully used for in instance in case of so-called Fiscal Compact (concluded in 2012) or Treaty Establishing European Stability Mechanism (signed in 2012).

This book is mainly addressed to academics and Ph.D. students who focus on EU law, EU economics, international relations or European political science.

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