

Economic and Monetary Union is an example of how settling an important problem, that of the common currency, entails a broader awareness of issues related to the currency, of public discussion and debate about them. The question of whether the euro contributes to inflation, whether its high value puts European exports at risk, and whether interest rates set by the European Central Bank have facilitated house purchases, are issues familiar to the European public and have an effect on its stance. This goes to show that a forum for public debate automatically emerges when specific issues of concern to the public become topical and urgent.

Federation

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Question: How do we achieve economic governance? Is it necessary to create a federation. It is possible even by

That example also shows that progress towards a more democratic, more united Europe, whose people are aware of the issues it must face, will not derive from grand, unrealistic plans for the future, but from specific solutions for broader common issues.

[Already EMU and the Schengen Agreement, and now the common foreign policy and defence policy that are being mapped out, have shaped the European structure and defined ways in which to respect and transcend particular identities. They ensure union in diversity, gradually reducing the number of intra-state agreements while also creating a focus of interest and discussion for citizens in more countries. Joint actions lead to broader means of cooperation and experience of the balance that must be struck between efforts for diversity and for unity, a balance that will not be the same in every sector. Such joint actions, consciously fostered by the Union, will gradually weave a unifying web that carries the integration project even further towards completion. Seen in that light, enhanced cooperation can be a step forward and a means of

exerting pressure on the Union to expand common endeavours into new sectors.

*Enhanced cooperation is a solution foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty for cases in which member states wish to undertake a common*

The picture that emerges will be more complex than the structure of a nation state. The more complex it is, the harder it will be for people to understand, and it will not provide the direct connection to power that exists in smaller state entities. But that also applies to other contemporary socioeconomic problems. Their complexity makes them seem obscure to the public, as power relations today become more complex, less direct and visible. The new forms of supranational organization will not resemble their predecessors. And, provided that their complexity promotes the fullest and most effective democracy, it will also ensure a greater degree of diversity.

*action but other that other members are not willing to follow. EU is an example of enhanced cooperation*

To sum up: the preservation and protection of diversity is connected with the progress of the unification process and the deepening of democracy. The relation of the supranational to the national can be shaped creatively as long as it is linked to a joint effort to tackle the problems of the peoples of Europe.

European unification will proceed with the gradual creation of broader forms of co-operation of different types in various areas of policy. They will constitute a network, at the hub of which is the core of states that participate in all of them. In this way it will be possible, under the umbrella that covers all the member states, to adapt various levels of unity and diversity, case by case, while continually expanding co-operation. What is important is to ensure in this way that the Union functions to the best of its ability.