

Europe's existing institutions need to be rebuilt

Abstract

The Eurozone is a full monetary union but an imperfect economic and fiscal union of member states with different structural features; the mature economies of the European North differ significantly from the less mature economies of the South.

The EU has still not designed a rounded policy of economic governance, a new way of dealing with imbalances between the developed Core and the less developed Periphery. It has not formulated procedures for the systematic promotion of economic growth, which would distribute the benefits to all members in as balanced a way as possible.

The Union is in a 'process of transition'. The new conditions created new dynamics and tendencies in the European structure. The efforts to introduce new rules, especially with regard to economic cooperation, led to increasingly hostile reactions against the transfer of power from member states to the centre. Political unification is questioned. European leaders differ actions, avoid clear cut decisions and insist on the institutional set-up though it is not adapted to the new European reality.

In today's globalised world, economic, social and political ties between states have become irrevocably entwined; a return to complete autonomy is no longer possible for any country of the

Union. Symbiosis, cooperation, policy coordination and common targets are a pressing necessity. In the EU's current context the problem is not one of regaining lost autonomy but the formulation of a common European policy fit for modern boundary-transcending conditions and which responds to the needs and particularities of the peoples of the Union. This is about devising ways to cooperate on a European level: making it possible to adjust to the demands and values of citizens, to combine efficiency with market control, growth with greater equity and the democratic set-up with meaningful participation. What is being sought is a policy for the European polity, in the supranational era, which will both take account of the particularities of every member state and secure the attainment of common goals.