

THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS



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CONTRIBUTIONS

Today, European Union and its member states have a basic goal: to overcome the crisis or, **at least, starting find the keystone for the solution before new European elections.** If crisis continues, elections will be strongly influenced by populist parties, xenophobic and anti-European and in consequence by what is not Europe.

The stern economic policy, as in Germany, is among the causes of crisis exacerbation. In the last ten years, this country has sacrificed the power of its workers to encourage competitiveness in exportations. All of this, at the expense of less industrialized European economies forced to internal devaluations and pay reductions, with harsh measures as Spanish labour legislation.

The consequence is that **Europe is now in a moment of divergence and lack of solidarity**, in opposition to the idea of convergence related to the concept of Monetary Union and to the fact that, in any case, it would have prevented every kind of microeconomic imbalance (job, competitiveness, deficit, debt).

Crisis has destroyed this concept and also the post-Maastricht stage characterized by a financially doped growth.

Actual European legislation (2009-2014) is becoming an example of recession, unemployment and Welfare weakening.

European Union was not the only protagonist in showing incapacity to face these problems



efficiently. **Even if Member States have more political and economic instruments than Union, they have showed their weakness.** They have democratic legitimacy, a major budget and taxing indebtedness, a major annual report, energy policy, etcetera.

European Union has not these attributes. It is not an Economic Union. It has only a Monetary Policy showing its insufficiency facing crisis, given that, a financial, fiscal and economic policy does not exist.

Nevertheless, the only efficient mission avoiding markets attack on peripheral and weak economies, like the Spanish one, came from European Union.

We clearly refer to the European Central Bank (ECB) and to its decision to “intimidate” mass purchase of sovereign debt concerning Spain and Italy, if their governments decide to ask to European Stability Mechanism (ESM) for economic help.

Another important decision was made in United States, when the Congress, at the last moment, prevented the “fiscal cliff”. This brought our spread down more than anything, among all measures of Spanish government, had never caused.

Rajoy cutbacks caused only depression of our economy. They did not help us to find growth or to pay less interests in debt.

In theory, Member States have fiscal and economic policy but crisis has given more urgent decisions to European Council. Commission has prepared national annual report control causing an inevitable impingement to parliaments sovereignty. **In this period of crisis, without modifying Treaties, decisions are taken by the European Council that has not the constitutional legitimacy for that.** Some fundamental aspects of democratic sovereignty belong to authorities working on other fields of competition.

National parliaments, except German Bundestag, are losing their role and for this reason, their functions are conducted by European Council, European Central Bank and by national cabinet of big countries. Parliaments have to give answers to their own governments and not to all European citizens.

In these cases, citizens lost their confidence, not only in the European project but in democracy.

In Europe, it is important to create a constitutional structure to fix the real competences of institutions and where the highest authorities have the highest justices and, for this reason, elected by citizens.

The economic problems of the European Union are caused by a lack of political union.

The solution for that, in democracy, is only the opening of a true constitutional process, a **Convention**, including: national parliaments and European Parliament, governments, Committee of the Regions and Economic and Social Committee and, of course, European citizens.

This process has to be the central point of next European elections and, at the same time, their beginning.

If ten years ago, a European Constitution was necessary and it was not realized, today, it is absolutely necessary. We need only political impulse to do it. We have to choose between the slow and frustrating system of palace pact and the street of democratic logic, giving to Europe justices, force and solidarity.

Dangers for democracy are not only nationalism, chauvinism, xenophobia or extreme right but also the fact that, we have not made a true European democracy yet.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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