

SUMMARY

János VÁNDOR

Some Thoughts on the Future of the European Union

In spite of certain temporary setbacks European integration has been a relatively rectilinear process. Through gradual and voluntary sacrifices of national sovereignty the European Community already reached such a high level of cooperation that we could talk more of the organic fusion of the states concerned than the separate existence of the traditional nation-states. To be more precise, the classic nation-states and a new form of political entity have been collaterally in existence for some time and have actually become intermingled. In this article the Author tries to explain why this is hidden, not openly admitted by political and academic circles. He expresses the view that European development cannot but progress towards federalism, though this newly emerging political entity might be basically different from the federal state-options experienced in the USA or Germany. The possible outcome of the 2004 IGC is also discussed in the study.

István MOLNÁR

Immediate Environment Protection Actions needed in Connection with our EU-Accession

It has been a long way until Hungary could conclude the negotiations with the EU on the environmental matters in 2001. The successes of this process are acknowledged also by the country report published in November 2001 when stating:

„Since the last Regular Report, Hungary has made significant progress in this area, notably through the adoption of legislation on the Environmental Impact Assessment, on water, waste, industrial pollution control and risk management, chemicals and radiation protection.

Hungary has achieved a very high level of alignment with the environmental acquis. Previous delays in the ambitious transposition schedule were made up over the last year.”

The first part of the article reviews the most important components of the Hungarian position and the related opinion of the Union. The second part of the article studies the correctness of the existing legal documents dealing with the international environmental law and puts special emphasis on how to possibly elaborate a multilateral agreement which would more exactly determine the general responsibilities for environment protection, the acceptable level of trans-border pollution, the demand for the application of principle of precaution and the support of sustainable development.

Balázs FERKELT

First Years of a historical Enterprise, the Euro

On the 1st of January 1999 eleven countries of the European Union entered the 3rd phase of the Economic and Monetary Union and introduced the Euro at this stage as an account currency. The Euro-Zone counted altogether 12 members with Greece joining it in January, 2001. The introduction of Euro and its first 3 years can be considered successful.

In the last 3 years the unification process of the European capital markets has accelerated, the share of the exchange capitalisation has improved. External effects influenced detrimentally the realisation of price stability in 2000 and 2001. The huge economic and competitive ability distance between USA and Euro-Land was principally responsible for the fall in dollar exchange rate of the Euro.

Accomplishing the structural reforms is essential by all means, furthermore the same applies to the deregulation of labour markets along with decreasing the state's interference and improving productivity. Monetary policy should be more transparent; ECB should develop its communication policy. Euro's introduction as a cash currency will probably improve its international role. However, the new common currency cannot be a competitor for the dollar in a short- and mid-term, and will function as a regional currency.

József HUBAI

Management of natural Resources in Hungary and the EU at the beginning of the 21st Century

In the study, an overview is provided on the share natural resources had in the wealth of the nation at the end of the last (twentieth) century, and facts are listed that have been affecting them ever since.

Also, six economic and foreign trade facts are put as a proof that this share has been steadily growing since the change of regime eleven years ago.

Finally, considerations are given to the newest events (following September 11th, 2001) affecting the management of natural resources. Special emphasis is placed on the effects from the European Union and the United States of America. All these are examined on their merits at the end of the study.

It is generally known that values produced and accumulated by citizens of a nation are features that best characterise the wealth thereof.

Natural resources analysed in this study do make part of the wealth of the nation. These are managed, kept on record and monitored to see the reasons why they have been changing. Natural resources available are managed to make sure they help maintain the dynamics in the development of the national economy.

In the study, two periods are covered to demonstrate the role national resources have been playing in the development of the national wealth.

Erzsébet ARANYI

Tendency for Reconciling the Family with Work in the European Union and Hungary

In the last decades the population has been declining in most of the EU Member States, and in Hungary, as well. Because of this trend the research on the changes inside the family, namely the reasons for the decrease in the number of birth became more and more important. One of the most problematic issues is that women are compelled to make a choice between their family and their job. This trend can lead to further decrease in the number of children, and consequently, to serious social problems.

The article presents the family policy of the EU Member States and of Hungary and the efforts to reconcile family life with work. At the same time it looks for answers for such questions as "How is the concept of the family changing?", "Can the Government's policy influence population growth and should it do so?" "How do the EU member States and Hungary try to reconcile family with work?"

Andrea VÁRALJAI

The most disputed Areas of commercial Communications within the European Union

As the European Union continues to develop, the problems of uniting all individual member states under common law and regulations are becoming more and more apparent. The advertising industry is one area that raises lots of these questions. According to Article 59 of the Treaty of Rome, all member states should ensure the free movement of services through their borders. The benefits of this freedom of movement to commercial advertising is huge for the industry, however the reality is that each country still has huge variations in their current legislation. The essay is an extract from a detailed study that analyses the current status in the European Union and concentrates on the most disputed areas i. e. advertising to children, alcohol and tobacco advertising, and misleading advertising.