

Abstracts

Karsten Skjalm

EMU and Political Integration After the Danish Euro Referendum

It is often claimed that the single currency necessitates much stronger political integration or a political union if it is to succeed without major economic and political upheavals. However, the notions of political integration and political union are rarely clarified in the political and academic debate. Here, political integration is conceptualized along two continuums (institutional integration and policy integration) in order to estimate where the present EMU architecture stands. Further, the key dynamics in the political integration process spurring from the advent of the single currency are identified. The single currency does not in itself necessitate further integration beyond the present scheme. Accordingly, the future driving force towards further integration is likely to be the Eastern enlargement.

Jens Henrik Haahr

EU's Legitimacy Problems: Deliberation and National Interests in the European Development Process

Why is the European Union experiencing a crisis of legitimacy? How can this crisis be solved? Following a critique of three common explanations of the Union's legitimacy deficit these problems are approached from the perspective of deliberative democracy. The size of the EU, its complex and closed nature limit the possibilities of public opinion formation for influencing political will formation. The formation of political will, in turn, is dominated by the "logic of bargaining" rather than the "logic of arguing". The institution of the Intergovernmental Conferences offers no solution as it facilitates a strategic attitude based on conceptions of conflicts between national interests. Conversely, institutionalized deliberation will improve conditions for general European interests to set the direction for future reforms of the European Union.

Reimer N. Nielsen

After Nice: The European Defense Dimension and the Danish Defense Exemption

The arguments and goals that motivated the Danish defense exemption from the Maastricht Treaty are contrasted with the rapid development of the European defense dimension since the mid-1990s. On this basis, it is safe to argue that the exemption has had a number of unintended consequences for Denmark's security policy in priority areas such as ethnic conflict and humanitarian crisis management.

Moreover, current trends in the transatlantic relationship and global crisis management are going to put the defense exemption under increasing strain.

Peter Riis and David Munis Zepernick
EU: A Challenge to the Danish Political System

Ever since Denmark became a member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1973, the Danish EC/EU membership and the European integration process have been subject to heated discussions, especially around the various EU referenda. European integration has put a vast range of institutions in the Danish political system under increasing pressure to adapt to the new political environment, resulting in an escalating blurring of the distinction between domestic and foreign policy. It is described how key institutions like the Danish parliament, government, state bureaucracy and political parties have coped with this challenge.