

Abstracts

Lars Kolte

The Decision-Making Process in the EC 1985-89

At the beginning of 1985 the Community had turned into decisional hibernation. The consequences of this situation for Community co-operation is described and the most important decision-making processes in the period up to summer 1989 are analysed in depth. An attempt is made to summarise common back-ground factors which made the period 1985-89 the most densely successful in the Community. In the following analysis of the development in the balance of power among the Community Institutions elements of an explanation may be found. In conclusion, a set of characteristics are listed which are deemed necessary – and in combination sufficient – for Commission proposals to be adopted by the competent bodies in the Community and to be accepted by the public.

Jesper Bo Jensen

Is Europe's Domestic Market Deregulation?

The implementation of Europe's Domestic Market is described and analysed as deregulation: deregulation directly through some of the proposals in the White Paper, and deregulation indirectly via a mechanism of regulatory arbitrage. The most comprehensive deregulation is taking place against technical barriers to trade – especially concerning financial services – while the breakdown of physical and fiscal barriers is progressing slower. The implementation of Europe's Domestic Market will enlarge the possibilities of firms and individuals to act without restriction within quite many areas. The EC is, by the completion of the domestic market, partly moving away from the strategy of harmonization, aiming at creating uniform rules in the member countries, towards a new strategy of competition enforcement. The enforcement is carried through by creating common conditions for business by removing rules and regulations.

Hans B. Feddersen

Europe's Single Market and Monetary Integration

The article examines the dual relationship between the European Community's plan to create a single market by 1992 and monetary integration within the EC. On one side, the European Monetary System (EMS) has contributed to the stabilization of intra-European prices and exchange rates in the 1980s. This monetary stabilization must be considered a necessary condition for the move to a more open internal market. In addition, the existence and development of the EMS since 1979 has in several ways furthered decision-making in liberalizing the internal market, especially with regard to capital movements.

On the other side, contrary to widespread beliefs the 1992-program does not logically imply a move from the EMS to full monetary union. But on a political-psychological level there is some spill-over from the success of the single market plan to the monetary area. It works as a catalyst for the renewed attempts since 1988 to create an economic and monetary union in the Community. But the real driving force in this process is the interest of the French government and others to see a redistribution of power in Europe's monetary decision-making.