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Edito

Chers lecteurs,

L’Union européenne est un espace politique encore en construction. C’est ce qui rend ses succès inespérés et ses défaillances en partie excusables.

En mai prochain, nous élirons nos députés européens. On peut se demander avec curiosité si la désignation du Président de la Commission qui suiva ne va pas apporter une nouvelle pierre à l’édifice européen. Je m’explique : pour la première fois, chaque grand parti politique européen a désigné son candidat à la fonction. Dès lors, le Conseil européen parviendra-t-il à s’accorder avec le Parlement sur l’un de ces champions préélectoraux? Dans l’affirmative – ce qui est loin d’être acquis – je pense qu’il y aura là un précédent difficile à écarter pour le futur. Dans la négative, la crédibilité desdits partis européens, et du Parlement plus généralement, en sortira écornée.

C’est donc un aspect important de la démocratie européenne qui va se jouer. Faut-il que celle-ci se teinte de plus de paritarité? A chacun de se forger une opinion. Quoiqu’il en soit, le simple fait que des débats télévisés paneuropéens soient visiblement en préparation me réjouit. Un espace politique en construction, c’est passionnant n’est-ce pas?


Conference on «Transjudicial Dialogue», March 28

Constitutional adjudication in Europe is increasingly characterized by novel techniques of judicial reasoning and a greater propensity than ever before towards the citation of foreign precedents and international case law (including European law). The issue remains to determine how «transjudicial dialogue» is dealt with in practice in Europe where you have myriad legal systems that have shaped the continent’s past (and molded its future...).

The University of Saint-Louis will be hosting a debate on this subject on Friday 28 March. The speakers taking part in this debate will include Lady Brenda Hale of the U.K. Supreme Court and Judge Paul Lennons of the European Court of Human Rights. The debate, beginning at 3 pm sharp, will be followed by short Q&A session. All are warmly invited to attend. For more information, please contact François van der Mersbrugge.

The European Week, March 24-28

Students for Europe – Brussels (SFEB) is a non-profit student organization founded in 2000 by students from the Master on European Studies that the the Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles organizes jointly with the Université catholique de Louvain. The SFEB organizes from 24-28 March its main event: «The European week» which aims to bring together young European students who want to have a better understanding of the EU decision-making process. The program entirely in English combines lectures and conferences by well-known academics and top EU officials. Furthermore, a role-playing will take place inside the EU Parliament where students from different countries (France, Italy, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Romania, etc) will simulate a parliamentary session, negotiate, table amendments and participate in a real political debate. To close the European week a job evening and a farewell reception will be held at the Université Saint-Louis. For more information and registration.

« Reconciling Trade and Environment Concerns in the EU: Mission Impossible? », by N. de Sadeler

It has been argued that trade liberalization and free competition increase the wealth of trading nations so they are able to afford to implement environmental policies. On the other hand, economic growth at all costs may result in greater pressures on ecosystems. At a time where climate change appears to be more serious than ever, the question arises as to whether the EU can reconcile trade and environmental concerns in order to achieve sustainable development. Experts are aware that the results of the EU environmental policy have at the very least been muted. One of the main difficulties environmental law has been facing is related to the fact that the legal order of the EU is conceptualized in terms of economic integration. At the core of EU integration lies the internal market.

The internal market and environmental policy have traditionally focused on the limitation of importing nations and strive to implement regulatory integration. The results of environmental policies have been much more muted. The challenge for the EU is to reconcile trade and environmental concerns in order to achieve sustainable development. It is argued that the EU environmental policy have at the very least been muted. One of the main difficulties environmental law has been facing is related to the fact that the legal order of the EU is conceptualized in terms of economic integration. At the core of EU integration lies the internal market.

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