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***Current Stage of the EU Political and Economic Integration –
How to Settle the “Antique Utilization” Dilemma?***

Gediminas Vitkus

Although the EU has implemented a lot of impressive projects, previous merits were not sufficient for permanent public confidence and support. Europe is facing a sort of the “antique utilization” dilemma, which arises for people, who are already bored previously considered valuable items. However, it seems nobody is seriously considering how to get rid of this useless-looking item. Vice versa, there is no shortage of ideas and proposals how to remake the EU. Two main alternatives could be discerned out of recent debates. The first alternative is a “federalist” one. The second alternative suggests the EU instead of trying to become more nation-state alike, to transform itself to the new kind of polity with decentralized governance of European nations. However the both alternatives do not look viable. Hence, the “antique utilization” dilemma is going to persist as a trouble maker without clear solution in foreseeable future.

***European Integration Research:
In Search of Theoretical Paradigm***

Vytautas Radžvilas

This article is an attempt to overview the state of the theory of European integration and it's development perspectives. Distinct and divergent “broad” and “narrow” definitions of integration theory, as well as various understandings of it's meaning and purpose should be regarded as symptoms of it's disintegration and fragmentation. In the absence of the broader theoretic-

cal paradigm “mosaic” picture of integration unfolds and gains dominance, thus preventing the understanding of deep and long-term tendencies of the integration process. The reconstruction and renewal of the theoretical paradigm of European integration research through the reflective restoration of the equilibrium between theoretical “explanation” and “understanding” is the necessary prerequisite for the development and progress in this research field.

Implications of the Lisbon Treaty for Lithuania: Qualified Majority and EU Agenda

Klaudijus Maniokas

This article focuses on the implications of the Lisbon Treaty on the decision-making process in the EU in general and Lithuania in particular. It argues that a new definition of the qualified majority voting (QMV) is an essential novelty of the Lisbon Treaty, which might change the current consensual character of the decision-making in the EU. It might, in turn, penalize those member states, which have specific preferences in certain policy areas. Extension of the QMV implies increasing pressure for the national policy-making. Benefits of this extension are conditioned by the character of the EU agenda at the national level. Article offers, therefore, evaluation of the Lithuanian EU agenda in this respect.

Common European Union Energy Policy on the Making and the Interests of Lithuania

Žygimantas Vaičiūnas

Common energy policy of the European Union is one of the most intensively developing EU integration field. For Lithuania EU energy policy is the key instrument while increasing its energy security. Consequently Lithuania interest is to adapt EU energy policy according its priorities. The aims of this article are the evaluation of the benefit of the EU energy policy for Lithuania, review the main elements of this policy at the same time assessing Lithuania's influence towards EU energy policy.

Concluding statement of the article – the priorities of the EU and Lithuania energy policy are converging. This fact can be qualified as the success of Lithuanian European policy indicating that Lithuania managed to transform its national energy policy interests towards priorities of the EU energy policy.

***The Political Economy of Lithuania's Membership
in the European Union: Expectations and
the Experience of Five Years***

Ramūnas Vilpišauskas

The article discusses the impact of European Union membership on the economy, politics and policies of the new member states, in particular, Lithuania. It first presents the forecasts and arguments regarding the impact of EU enlargement that were discussed before the enlargement in 2004/2007. Afterwards it evaluates the experience so far, by discussing the studies which have been made on the impact of EU and concludes that, the enlargement has been a positive sum game for the economies of new member states (as well the whole EU), increasing trade and investments flows and contributing to the catching up with the rest of the EU. However, it argues that the impact of the EU membership is mediated by domestic policies of each member state, and that Lithuania has not attempted to strengthen the positive impulses coming from the EU accession, in particular by postponing the structural reforms in the country. So far most evidence shows that new members have not changed radically the functioning of the EU, and the implementation of the EU norms has been better than expected, with Lithuania consistently being one of the leading countries in this respect. Finally, it assesses the main European policy priorities in Lithuania, in particular the reasons for some failures (such as the failure to join the eurozone in 2007) and achievements. It argues that most European policy failures have been due to the inconsistency and low credibility of some domestic policies. It concludes by providing venues for future research of European policy after the enlargement.

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