

EUROPE - 2

Political framework and methodology of European integration **Europe united under the Treaty of Rome (1957) and the Treaty of** **Maastricht (1992)**

UNITY OF EUROPE : AIMS AND METHODS

A – AIMS

Since the beginning of the integration process, united Europe appears like a aim of general character, connected to the necessity to exceed that exasperated nationalism and those particular interests that they have been, in past, the cause of many conflicts. This is a common idea of all the so called “europeists”.

But when it is passed in the concrete definition of this aim, emerge and various guidelines of thought and political action are confronted. In effects, there is who thinks about united Europe like Europe of the People; therefore of the formation of a true and just new European State, that it exceeds the national States. There is, instead, who thinks about an Europe of the States, therefore about an European institution that works like structure in a position to coordinating and facilitating the initiatives of the single States. There is who thinks, as he is emerged in the recent debate to the Convention for constitutional treaty (2002-2003), about Europe of the States and of the People, a supranational institution in which the decisional power is subdivided between the governors and the citizens. In passed - this is still an other guideline - it is often spoke on Europe of the Native Land, with reference to the idea of "native land" instead that to the idea of "nation".

As institutional solution - the birth of an European State - these various interpretations of the aim to reach, involve, consequently, also various solutions: what will have to be Europe? A Confederation of national States, a Federation that assembles and for many aspects exceeds the

national States, an true and just European State that it absorbs all, or, finally, an institution of completely new type and original?

In the time passed, but also today, these institutional solutions towards united Europe are still of the open solutions and reflect of the political directions still very distant and various between them.

B - METHODS

Also with regard to the method to follow in the process of construction of the European unit, yesterday like today, various methods are in confront.

Confederate method

The confederate way is that one that sees the national States to be connected and to collaborate more and more closely on the base of a confederate pact, a treaty, in order to carry out, in several the fields, the same politics. In the confederation the national States totally conserve the own sovereignty. The engagement to carry out common political is established and defined in international reunions by the representatives of the single States, Heads of State or Government. The aim of the European Confederation and the confederate method have been proposals and are followed in the past by politicians like Churchill and De Gaulle.

Federalist method

The federalist method has been proposed above all by the europeist movements. It heads for the aim, that it is considered priority, to constitute a federal State, starting a collaboration and a cession of sovereignty from part of the national States in the strategic fields, in the essential fields that they define the sovereignty of State: foreign and military politics, the law and the justice, the economy and the currency. The national States would conserve their single sovereignty in the matters that have only dimensions and national capacity. The European federal State would be a true and just new State that would be formed like parallel to the national States: everyone of these States - the European federal State and the national States - would be sovereign in the within of the own competences. With regard to this the examples of the United States and Switzerland are recalled.

Above all after the tragedy of the second world war, of forehead to the disaster caused from the States nation, the europeists headed with force to this political and institutional aim of the federal State. But it was not happened: the COUNCIL OF EUROPE, the EDC (European Defence Community), the EPC (European Political Community) are all trying that or are failed or have not

carried up to now to the birth of a Federal European State. In the direction of the federal State it goes, as an example, the progressive, even if slow, an increase of the role and the decisional function of the European Parliament, even if still today we are very far from one assembly with full sovereignty.

Functionalist method

The functionalist way is that one that sees the States national to yield for degrees, step by step, field after field, of the parts of their national sovereignty in favour of a Higher authority. This cession of quotas the national sovereignty has the scope to promote of the political and the actions that catch up better what it is defined like the common interest. It is the method that has prevailed since the beginning in the process of European integration and that hour is followed until now. In effects, the main promoter of this method, the French Jean Monnet has thought that it was unrealistic and practically impossible to carry immediately the European States to melt itself in a new European State. To this general objective one would be arrives gradually. For this reason, European integration is begun from a specific field, precisely from the field of the economy, with the constitution of the C.E.C.A., the first European Community to which the national States have delegated the sovereignty and the power to manage the politics of the coal and the steel. It is then passed to the constitution of the European Economic Community (common market, common sector politics, only currency), in order to arrive, in recent years on the first initiatives in various fields from the economy like the justice, the security, comprised the military security, foreign politics (the new "pillars" of the communitarian cooperation starts with the treaty of Maastricht of 1992). Until the point to start, with the constitutional treaty of a 2003 - blocked from France and Holland - new process of integration with the objective of the European State.

C - CONCLUSIONS

In effects, today, from the institutional point of view can be said that the Community is a difficult compromise between the three shapes of the europeism.

It is, essentially, a functionalist construction, with delegation of some aspects of the sovereignty to one supranational Union. At the same time, since in order to develop it, it is necessary to take the continuous decisions, the Union has been made dependent on a confederate decision taking organ , the Council of National Ministers.

Finally, also for giving the sense of a way that moves in any case towards the objective of the United States d' Europe, to the confederate and functional institutions, it has been added also some institutions of federal type: for an example, to) the Law court, which protects the priority of the rising communitarian Law on every the national Law of single State, the Court that is of all the independent from the national Courts; b) the European Parliament to which it has been entrusted the representation of the citizens.

It can be asserted, in conclusion, than on one side, followed the diversity of the aims and the methods in European integration like, from the other, the complexity of the construction that of it is derived, reflects the various spirits and visions of Europe. It is a cultural and political issue which is still is open and of the great relevance.