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## *A New Start for Perspectives on Federalism*

by

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## Abstract

*Perspectives on Federalism* is closing its seventh year and its issue 2/2015 confirms the interdisciplinary nature of this intellectual enterprise. This issue is a very rich one, as it includes legal, historical and philosophical contributions. In spite of the evident diversities of these articles, we can identify three main connecting themes: latest developments in EU law, history of thought and European integration, and constitutional developments in national and supranational contexts.

## Key-words

EU law, history of European integration, constitutional developments, interdisciplinarity



*Perspectives on Federalism* is closing its seventh year and its issue 2/2015 confirms the interdisciplinary nature of this intellectual enterprise.

Over the years, our Journal has grown quickly, thanks to the dedication and commitment of our previous Editor in Chief, Umberto Morelli, and to the steady support of the [Centro Studi sul Federalismo](#) and the [Compagnia di San Paolo](#).

We have published a number of relevant contributions and hosted some very rich special issues, entrusted to established or young scholars in Federal Studies, who have served as guest editors (see, for instance, the special issues edited by Søren Dosenrode - [Vol. 2, issue 3, 2010](#)- and that by Paulus Blokker and Werner Reutter, [Vol. 7 issue 1, 2015](#), among others).

We have also published the proceedings of two international symposia of the IACL (International Association of Constitutional Law) working group on “[subnational-constitutions-in-federal-quasi-federal-constitutional-states](#)” (respectively, [Vol. 4, Issue 2, 2012](#) and [Vol. 6, Issue 2, 2014](#)).

The Editors in chief of the Journal are also happy to announce a very important achievement: we have finally remedied its backlog and recently signed an important agreement with [de Gruyter](#). This marks the beginning of a new important season for *Perspectives on Federalism* and we are very proud of this.

To celebrate this important event we have wrapped a very rich issue including legal, historical and philosophical contributions.

In spite of the evident diversities of these articles, we can identify three main connecting themes:

- Latest Developments in EU law
- History of Thought and European Integration
- Constitutional Developments in national and supranational contexts.

Concerning the first block of contributions, in her article [Mari Minn](#) dealt with the issue of supranational competence over patent law, looking at the TRIPS Agreement and at the decision of the CJEU in the Daiichi Sankyo case (CJEU case C-414/11 Daiichi Sankyo v DEMO Anonimos).



[Márk Némédi](#) instead explored the problematic case-law of the European Court of Justice on the *ne bis in idem* principle (also in light of the recent developments after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty) and its implications on mutual trust.

In their essay [Werner Vandebrouwaene, Patricia Popelier and Christine Janssens](#) dealt with Art. 260 TFEU, especially looking at how to mitigate federal concerns in the context of infringement procedures and financial sanctions within the mechanism governed by this provision.

Concerning the second block, in his article [Tommaso Visone](#) explored Albert Camus' thought in his series of essays "Neither Victims Nor Executioners" (1946), where Camus stressed the importance of fighting for a new democratic world order against the condition of international dictatorship immanent in the XX century interdependent world. In his work, [Paolo Caraffini](#) instead looked at the European Movement International (EM) stance in defense of the Community institutions established under the Treaties of Paris and Rome during the so-called "empty chair crisis", seen as a fundamental turning point in the history of European integration.

Concerning the third block [Jurgen Goossens and Pieter Cannoot](#) offered an interesting account of the most important institutional evolutions of Belgian federalism between 2012 and 2014. The Authors argue that in spite of its importance the sixth state reform does not exclude the possibility of further evolutions, on the contrary further developments are to be expected.

[Edward Grodin](#) wrote a comparative essay on the degree of convergence between the United States and the European Union regarding the structural role of administrative agencies and the so called "non- delegation doctrine".

As always, we would like to thank our readers for their support and recall that *Perspectives on Federalism* is open to other special issues. We also invite colleagues and scholars interested in that to submit new proposals.

The Editors in Chief with the other members of the Scientific Board and Editorial Committee will evaluate the project as soon as possible.

The peer review mechanism will be centralized in order to guarantee- as always- the quality of the articles.

This is a tentative list of topics of interest to the Journal:



- Fundamental Rights Protection in the EU (especially after Opinion 2/13 of the Court of Justice of the EU and in light of the worrying situation in Hungary and elsewhere).
- National Borders and EU migration policies.
- Secession in Europe: What Role for the EU?
- The EU in a Comparative Perspective: Comparing the EU with other Supranational Organizations.

This is not an exhaustive list, other topics can be proposed and we will be very happy to consider them for publication.

Last but not least, we would like to announce that the next issue (3/2015) of our Journal will be devoted to Solidarity in Hard Times and will include some of the papers presented in an international conference held in Madrid on 11 - 12 - June – 2015.

#### The Editors

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