



## Summaries

### **Othmar Karas: A Social Europa in the Face of Globalization. Social Market Economy as Basis for a European Social Model**

The challenges of globalization can only be dealt with on the basis of the European Social Model. Essentially it is based on Social Economy, a form of "tamed capitalism", which has proved successful in the decades following World War II. Increasing competition, but also demographic developments necessitate adjustments which relate mostly to the protection and creation of jobs, the improvement of education and health services as well as modifications of retirement and pension systems. The corresponding social, educational and health-policy reforms can only succeed, however, if they are tackled by all parts of society. The Lisbon Treaty provides the EU with instruments for a necessary reconstruction. The objective of a sustainable Social Market Economy is not just an end in itself but a means for the implementation of a European model of society.

### **Christof Mandry: The Social Aspects of European Integration. Historical Outline and Social-Ethical Essentials**

European integration has led only to a limited responsibility of the EU in matters of social policy, which has been for a long time subordinate to economic policy. Only recently the union takes on a more active part in social policy, which is largely a coordinating one. On the other hand, European financial policy limits the national scope for action in this field. From a social-ethical perspective, the author states a basic tension between freedom and security, which has to be balanced in view of the democratic and social rights of participation. From an orientation towards solidarity and subsidiarity he proceeds to pragmatic precepts and calls for a priority for anti-poverty measures.

### **Wolfgang Schroeder: European Social Models and the Transformation of National Welfare States. Methods and Chances of Coordination**

Although the social challenges in the EU countries are largely similar, they are addressed by differing forms of national social policy. In other political sectors, for instance in the economic field, the process of European integration has advanced much further. The author outlines reasons and backgrounds for this situation. He describes the objectives of a harmonization of social policy, mostly, however, the unsolved strategy for coordinating the different processes of the developments of social policy. His assessment of the method leads to a sceptical evaluation: Indicators and statistics for a comparison are much too undifferentiated; parliaments, regional and civil-corporative protagonists are not sufficiently considered; social minimal standards and alternative models for development are ignored. The goal of learning always from the best models remains an illusion, as long as the different cultural conditions are not included in the comparison and while there are no consequences for those who refuse to learn.

### **Erny Gillen, Anke Thiel, Robert Urbé: Social Services. A Case for the European Competitive Order?**

Social Services just as health services rank, according to European law among the so-called "Services of general interest". While mostly exempt from the "Services guideline", they are however subject to other European competition regulations. It is problematic, from the viewpoint of social service providers, that without a sectorial guideline there is no legal security, and that they are facing a competition with lower quality standards and lower wages. The guidelines also cause additional problems with regard to national subsidy programs. But the actors in a civil society, among whom also the providers of social services are

to be found, assess this differently, and not all of them are pulling together in the same direction; the motives do not always seem to be clear. An ideal way could be to make the participation of the clients the centre of attention; even on the side of the social providers this could effect a significant additional benefit.

### **Stefan Lunte: A Renewed Social Agenda. Perspectives of European Social Policy**

On 2 July 2008 the European Commission has presented a renewed Social Agenda. It updates the currently valid social policy agenda for the period from 2005 to 2010. The following article deals with the genesis of this document, its contents and its scope. Also discussed – under the impression of a se-

the agenda's importance in the beginning discussion about the economic and social-political orientation of the EU after 2010, when the Lisbon-strategy for more growth and employment will be completed.

### **"There is only the Remedy of Reallocation" – Interview with Jérôme Vignon about the outlook for European Social Policy and the Christian contribution towards a renewal of Europe**

In the enlarged Europe there is a growing number of paupers, among them many who have to live below the poverty line although they have a job. This contradicts the claim of Europe to be not only an economic but also a common social area. Whereby, however, have attempts towards a common European Social Policy failed so far? Why couldn't Europe-wide mandatory social minimal standards be agreed on so far? Jérôme Vignon provides a backstage view of the voting- and decision-making processes between the countries and the EU Commission. He pleads for a different allocation of incomes and a new orientation of European economy. Here, Christians



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have the overriding task of reviving responsible civic thinking and lobbying for the poorest.

### **Josef Homeyer: What keeps Europe together – Annotations on the History of a Future Project**

Europe is and always will be a future project. Its cultural identity thrives on the permanent confrontation with the New, the Other, the Strange. Bishop Homeyer's explorations of the European tradition and history produce ambivalent results: tragic religious conflicts

and stable religious traditions, acts of violence and history of democracy, genocide and reconciliation services, mutual violations and self-righteousness on the one hand, judiciousness and remembrance on the other. The future, bishop Homeyer states, lies in the willingness for reconciliation.

### **Stanisław Fel: Social Ethics in Poland – History and Current Importance**

Social teaching by the Catholic Church today still has a strong impact in Polish society and politics. In the back-

ground there is a continuous and comprehensive tradition of social-ethical teaching and research which was not interrupted even during the decades following World War II. Mr. Fel in his report outlines the history, the institutions and the current influence of ecclesiastical social teaching in a former "Eastern Block Country" which in this respect always has been an exception.

## Sommaires

### **Othmar Karas : L'Europe sociale face à la mondialisation. L'économie sociale de marché, base du modèle social européen**

Les défis de la mondialisation ne peuvent être relevés que sur la base du modèle social européen. Celui-ci repose essentiellement sur l'économie sociale de marché, expression d'un « capitalisme maîtrisé », qui, dans les années qui ont suivi la seconde guerre mondiale, a bien fait ses preuves. Cependant l'intensification de la concurrence et l'évolution démographique nécessitent des adaptations visant à maintenir et à créer des emplois, à améliorer la formation et la prévention en matière de santé ainsi qu'à modifier le système des retraites. Ces différentes réformes dans le domaine des politiques sociales, de la formation et de la santé, n'auront de succès que si elles sont engagées en commun par tous les secteurs de la société. Le traité de Lisbonne dote l'UE des instruments de la

transformation nécessaire. Le but d'une économie de marché sociale et durable n'est pas une fin en soi : c'est un instrument pour traduire dans la réalité le modèle social européen.

### **Christof Mandry : La dimension sociale de l'intégration européenne. Aperçu historique et repères d'une éthique sociale**

Dans le domaine de la politique sociale, l'intégration européenne n'a conduit qu'à une compétence limitée de l'Union Européenne, la politique sociale étant par ailleurs depuis longtemps subordonnée à la politique économique. Depuis peu de temps seulement, l'Union joue un rôle plus actif en matière de politique sociale, bien que ce rôle ne dépasse guère le niveau de la coordination. En même temps, la politique financière européenne réduit les marges de manoeuvre des Etats membres dans ce domaine. Du point de vue de l'éthi-

que sociale, l'auteur constate une tension fondamentale entre liberté et sécurité qu'il s'agit de compenser par une participation démocratique et sociale plus active. Partant de la solidarité et de la subsidiarité, il parvient à des principes pragmatiques et affirme la priorité de la lutte contre la pauvreté.

### **Wolfgang Schröder : Le modèle social européen et la transformation des Etats de providence nationaux. Méthodes et chances d'une coordination**

Alors que dans les pays de l'Union Européenne les défis sociaux sont grandement similaires, les politiques sociales menées par les gouvernements pour y faire face, se présentent sous des formes différentes. Dans d'autres domaines politiques, p. e. celui de l'économie, le processus d'intégration européenne est beaucoup plus avancé. L'auteur en explique les raisons et les contextes. Il décrit les objectifs d'une harmonisation