

Letter from the Editor

It was exactly a decade ago that this Journal came into being. The decision was taken with an ambition to contribute to the development of the Western Balkans on its path towards the European integrations.

Our first number coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the end of the Cold War and was also a special issue on this topic. Additionally, 2009 was the year when the Lisbon Treaty came into being. It transformed the EU into an international organization with legal personality, what also served as the legal background for the establishment of the European External Action Service. We are glad that our authors reflected on a variety of these topics.

Hence, also in this issue we dwell on topics related to aspects that mark this era.

The first article focuses on the aftermath of Brexit, discussing it through the Principle Agency Dilemma. The author claims the Referendum has had an important influence on the future development of the EU. The paper concludes that the Principle Agency Dilemma has a significant impact on U.K policy-makers and focuses on the need of ending social media disinformation campaign and using innovative methods to end the gridlock. *Intriguing*.

Our second contribution discusses the empowerment of women in the Western Balkans between law and tradition with the special emphasis on their participation in the labour market and the enforcement of their right to property. Traditional customs and beliefs that are common to a large part of the region influence decisively slow path of reforms. They are necessary to push the economic development and independence of women. *Persuasive*.

The third paper brings to our attention geocriticism, the new approach in the study of literature, in particular novels. Geocriticism has been coined by Bertrand Westphal and aims to revert the historic perspective of reading literature by inviting readers to focus on the spatiality of the text. The author takes into the focus of her study novel

on diplomacy *Rainbow beyond the Soul*, the first part of the Slovene diplomatic trilogy. *Innovative*.

The fourth article deals with the migrant and refugee crisis that struck Europe almost five years ago. It is Greece that is hit mostly, not only in the territorial sense, while the crisis has been handled to a large extent by the EU with consequences to all its member states. The article touches also on the major issue of migrant and refugee minors, as they represent a high percentage of the total and they increase the complexity of the crisis. *Captivating*.

The fifth paper dwells on positioning of small states in the era of globalization. The author argues that small states can and do survive as well as function well in this context. This, however, does not go by itself, but demands carefully thoughtful and target oriented policy approach. States that let themselves go otherwise could easily be left behind in this structurally demanding, but opportunities rich global frame. *Realistic*.

The last piece of examination keeps its eye on the European integration process thirty years after the end of the Cold War. This integrating achievement and trend is understood as a structural output of the activities of key international governmental organizations (the EU, NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe). It is a European diplomatic, political and historical innovation with thirty years of an intensive structural rise. *Comprehensive*.

The first book review elaborates on the presidentialisation of political parties in the Western Balkans (an edited volume), and the second one explains fight over freedom in international discourse, focusing on moments of self-determination. And the recent Guest View contemplates three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall, what offered multilayered consequences and challenges for the Western Balkans.

A careful reader will again notice our *bellow intonation*: Slovenia is preparing for its second Presidency of the EU Council, having in mind the Congress of Ljubljana that took place two centuries ago. Diplomacy still rests on tradition. See you in spring.

Ljubljana, October 2019

M. J.

From the Congress of Ljubljana 1821 to the Presidency of the EU Council 2021