

European Union at the Crossroads - Politicization and Representation

Mgr. Patrícia Kaplánová*

ABSTRACT

The emergence of the economic and financial crisis has already shown important political consequences in the European Union. The purpose of my presentation is to identify a crucial relationship between the processes of an European integration and its political representation in the times of instability. In my opinion, one of the main consequences of the Eurozone crisis, which has culminated in recent years, is a more politicization of a European governance. Not only the political issues, but also a recent political institutionalization of the Union, have triggered a discussion about a democratic deficit of the European community. A major question is whether Europe needs more supranational governance or more national states. My assumption is that a reduction of the democratic deficit by strengthening of a democratic legitimacy faces a substantive problem. In my view, it is a representation deficit of the European governance. Because of a multi-level approach to the European governance, a political conflict has a two-dimensional nature of political actors. Therefore the politicization of the issue of the Eurozone crisis has emphasized the identification of these actors.

Key words: politicization at the European level, Eurozone crisis, political order after Lisbon Treaty, representation deficit

* Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia
Contact: pata.kaplanova@gmail.com