

THE LISBON STRATEGY ON E- EUROPE AND CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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Introduction

It is well known fact that the European Integration since its beginning in 1950s has been famous with its plenty of various kinds of legislative acts in the forms of:

- Basic treaties
- Regulations
- Directives
- Etc.

But unfortunately it is also a well known fact that many of these important legal acts remained just on “paper” and have been implemented in the practice of the European integration only partially or in many cases not at all or just selectively for some (member) states have to be fully applied by them but in some other cases not at all or in a very insufficient way.

Especially so called founding six original member states or also so called “old” fifteen member states used to have some derogations while all new member states had always to meet all those legal requirements to meet in full without any exceptions

The main purpose of this presentation is to analyze and present some basic strategies and programs of the EU that have not been successfully implemented into the practice of the EU or they have been differently implemented in case of the old or new member states of the EU. It means that the new member states have to meet all required criteria in full without any possible derogations while the old members are not able to meet the same criteria at all.

LISBON STRATEGY ON E-EUROPE

- ONE OF THE VERY AMBITIOUS EU STRATEGIS ESPECIALLY FOR THE 21ST CENTRUY THAT HOWEVER ALSO TOTALLY FAILED WAS THE SO-CALLED LISBON STRATEGY ON THE E-EUROPE
- THIS STRATEGY WAS ADOPTED IN YEAR 2000 WITH AN AMBITION THAT THE EU WILL BECOME THE MOST ADVANCED INFORMATION SOCIETY AND KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY IN THE WORLD BY YEAR 2010
- NOW WE ARE IN YEAR 2024 AND THE EU IS STILL VERY FAR FROM ITS OBJECTIVES AS EXPECTED FOR YEAR 2010
- SOME OF THE REASONS IS THE OVERALL POLICY OF THE EU THAT WHEN IT COMES TO FUNDING FROM THE EU BUDGET THE PREFERENCE IS RATHER GIVEN TO THE CAP, NOW ALSO TO UKRAINE THAN TO EDUCATION, ICT, R&D, INNOVATIONS, KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY ETC.

COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

- COPENHAGEN CRITERIA FOR ACCESSION TO THE EU:
 - - DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, RULE OF LAW, RESPECT FOR MINORITY
 - - FUNCTIONING MARKET ECONOMY
 - - ABILITY TO TAKE UP OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP
- MANY EU MEMBER STATES OR CANDIDATE COUNTRIES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THESE CRITERIA E.G. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS E.G. KINGDOMS, NOT HAVING A CONSTITUTION, NOT GIVING CITIZENSHIP TO MINORITY PEOPLE, FORBIDDING MINORITY LANGUAGE, ETC., LOW GDP GROWTH IN THE EU, PROBLEMS WITH EURO, SCHENGEN, ETC. MANY MEMBERS SIMPLY ARE NOT MEETING THESE CRITERIA BUT THEY ARE IN THE EU ANYHOW

MAASTRICHT CRITERIA FOR EURO

- ONLY TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MET THEM INITIALLY I.E. FINLAND AND LUXEMBURGH
- MOST COUNTRIES AMONG ORIGINAL 11 WERE ACCEPTED TO THE EUROZONE THAT THEY WERE SHOWING POSITIVE TRENDS LIKE E.G. ITALY AND BELGIUM IN THE TOTAL DEBT OVER DOUBLE OF THE LIMIT OF 60% OF THE GDP
- NOW NO EUROZONE COUNTRY IS MEETING THOSE CRITERIA
- THE ECB ITSELF WAS FOR YEARS UNDERMINING INFLATION CRITERION THROUGH “QUANTITATIVE EASING “ I.E. UNCONTROLLED PRINTING MONEY

GDPR

- IT IS DEFINITELY AN IMPORTANT DIRECTIVE ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA AS VERY SENSITIVE DATA ESPECIALLY NOWADAYS BECAUSE OF WIDELY EXISTING FRAUDULANT MISUSE OF PERSONAL DATA THROUGH MODERN ICT SYSTEMS, BUT...
- AS ALWAYS ALSO IN THIS PROBLEM AREA SOME VIOLATORS OF THE GDPR ARE AHEAD OF LAW AND LEGISLATION AUTHORITIES THROUGH SO CALLED

“COOKIES”

ALMOST ANY SEARCHING ON INTERNET IS REQUIRING TO APPROVE NOW ALREADY AT LEAST TENS OF COOKIES AND THOSE COLLECTED INFO ARE SHARED WITH HUNDREDS OF “PARTNERS”

CAP – COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

- IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND VERY IMPORTANT COMMON POLICIES OF THE EU SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN THE 1950S
- ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE WERE ALREADY MET ABOUT CHEAP, HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE, SAFE FOOD BUT MANY PROBLEMS EXISTING:
- TOO BUREAUCRATIC ESPECIALLY NOW WITH THE GREEN DEAL
- SLOW AND LATE PAYMENTS OF SUBSIDIES
- TOO DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE “GREEN DEAL” STRATEGY
- CHEAP IMPORTS FROM THE THIRD COUNTRIES INCLUDING UKRAINE THAT DO NOT NEED TO MEET ANY QUALITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS SO EU FARMERS ARE WIDELY PROTESTING AGAINST THOSE IMPORTS

GREEN DEAL

- THIS LATEST INITIATIVE AND STRATEGY FOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT THROUGH REDUCING THE CO2 EMISSIONS IS ALREADY NOW TOO CONTRAVERSIAL
 - BUT IT IS ALREADY NOW CLEAR THAT IT IS TOO AMBITIOUS AND IT BRINGS MANY RELATED PROBLEMS REGARDING:
 - IN THE E-CAR INDUSTRY IT MEANS MORE EXPENSIVE CARS THAT ARE NOT SO ATTRACTIVE FOR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS
 - TOO COMPLEX FOR NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE OF CHARGING, ETC.
 - TOO MUCH MORE BUREACRATIC ADMINISTRATION FOR FARMERS REGARDING THEIR FUTURE GREEN AGRICULTURE
- CURRENT WIDESPREAD PROTESTS OF FARMERS ALL OVER THE EU FROM BRUSSELS TO THE EU BORDERS WITH UKRAINE, ETC. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS NEW EU STRATEGY

SCHENGEN SYSTEM OF PROTECTION OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

- IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT STRATEGY AND SYSTEM FOR PROTECTING INTERNAL MARKET OF THE EU BUT DUE TO THE INABILITY OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS IT IS A TOTAL FAILURE
- FOR YEARS ESPECIALLY SINCE 2015 IT IS PRACTICALLY NOT EXISTING AS MILLIONS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS ARE ILLEGALLY COMING TO THE EU
- FRONTEX AS A SPECIAL AGENCY FOR PROTECTING EU BORDERS BUT IN THIS RESPECT IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN BRINGING THOSE ILLEGALS TO THE EU
- AGAIN IT IS DISCRIMINATORY TOWARDS SOME NEW COUNTRIES LIKE STILL E.G. BULGARIA OR ROMANIA WHILE MOST ILLEGALS ARE ENTERING THE EU THROUGH GREECE, ITALY, SPAIN, ETC.
- IN PRINCIPLE SCHENGEN REQUIREMENTS ARE NOW APPLIED ONLY TOWARDS THE EU CITIZENS AND/OR CITIZENS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BUT NOT AT ALL TOWARDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ESPECIALLY FROM ASIA AND AFRICA WHO HAVE PRACTICALLY FREE ENTRY TO THE EU
- THE EU IS ABSOLUTELY IGNORING THAT SMUGGLING PEOPLE ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND KIDS IS THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALITY AND AS SUCH MUST BE FIGHTED ACCORDING TO THE PARTICULAR UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
- INSTEAD OF RESPECTING THIS UN INTERNATIONAL LAW THE EC IS INTRODUCING QUOTAS FOR DISTRIBUTION ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AMONG EU MEMBER STATES OR PAY HIGH FEES

ORIGINALLY CFSP NOW EEAS

- THIS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE EU ARCHITECTURE AS DEFINED BY THE MAASTRICHT TREATY IS NOT EXISTING AT ALL
- BECAUSE OF THAT IT WAS ALSO RENAMED TO LESS EXPLICIT THE EEAS AS THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE WHAT MEANS AMONG OTHERS THAT IT IS NOW UNDERSTOOD AS A SERVICE AND NOT A STANDARD EU COMMON POLICY
- THERE IS NOT EXISTING ANY COMMON POLICY IN FOREIGN OR SECURITY POLICY AMONG EU MEMBER STATES
- TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS DISHARMONY ARE CASES OF RECOGNITION OF KOSOVO, HELP TO UKRAINE, SUPPORT TO NATO ACTIVITIES, ENERGY POLICY, SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA, ETC.
- ALL DECLARATIONS ON THE EU UNITY ARE OFTEN JUST EMPTY POLITICAL SLOGANS FROM BRUSSELS

EU SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

- SINCE THE RUSSIAN INVASION TO UJRAINE THE EU HAS ADOPTED ALTOGETHER 12 ROUNDS OF SACTIONS THAT HAD TO CRIPLE THE RUSSIAN MILITARY POLICY AND THE OVERAL SOC.-ECO. SITUATION IN RUSSIA
- SOME POLITICIANS HAVE THESE TOUGH CRIPLING SANCTIONS CALLED AS A MOTHER OF ALL SANCTIONS, BUT...
- RUSSIA AS OF NOW IS IN TERMS OF THE GDP GROWTH MUCH BETTER THAT THE EU AND IN MANY ASPECTS THE NEGATIVES OF SANCTIONS ARE MORE EVIDENT IN CASE OF THE EU MEMBER STATES THAN IN CASE OF RUSSIA
- FOR EXAMPLE THE AMMUNITION PRODUCTION IN RUSSIA IS NOW PRODUCING MORE THAN THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD SUPPORTING UKRAINE ALLTOGETHER
- RUSSIAN WAR MASHINARY WAS NOT EFFECTED AT ALL THANKS ALSO TO ITS PARTNERS FROM THE BRICS THAT NOW HAS MUCH MORE MEMBERS THAN BEFORE INVASION
- HENCE, THE SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA ARE NOW CALLED RATHER AS MARATHON THAN SHORT SPRINT AND THAT THEIR IMPACT WILL BE HOPEFULLY MORE EVIDENT IN THE FUTURE THAN AT PRESENT TIMES

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT IN THE EU

- SINCE ITS INCEPTION THE EU HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT ESPECIALLY REGARDING ITS EXECUTIVE ARM – THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- THE COMMISSIONERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE MEMBER STATES AND THEN IS SEARCHING A PORTFOLIO THEY ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
- HENCE IT HAPPENS THAT A COMMISSIONER AS A GRADUATE OF THE SOVIET GMINI IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EU INSTITUTIONS, THEN ENERGY UNION AND THEN FOR THE GREEN DEAL
- FOR THE SO CALLED “SCREENING” AT THE EP THEY GET MANUAL WITH QUESTIONS AND IN TWO WEEKS THEY HAVE TO LEARN ANSWERS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PASS THAT SCREENING AND BE APPOINTED FOR THEIR PRESTIGIOUS AND WELL PAID POST IN THE EU “GOVERNMENT”
- THE EP ITSELF IS ALSO NOT FREE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT AS TURNOUT IN THE EP ELECTIONS IS STILL VERY LOW, EP DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME POWERS LIKE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS AS E.G. IT CANNOT EJECT A SINGLE COMMISSIONER JUST THE ENTIRE COMMISSION, ETC. WHAT HAPPENED ONLY ONCE ALTHOUGH SUCH CASE COULD BE FULLY JUSTIFIED ALSO IN CASE OF OTHER COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING THE CURRENT ONE
- THE EU COMMISSION IS WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY LIKE E.G. NOW FOR THE CASE OF PURCHASES OF THE PFIZER IMMUNIZATION SHOTS AGAINST COVID WHICH CREATES MANY QUESTIONS OF THE FAIRNESS OF THAT PURCHASE

THE LATEST INITIATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AS ONE OF THE PRACTICAL STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “GREEN DEAL” AND/OR THE GREEN EUROPE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS STARTED AND IMPLEMENTATED THE NEW INITIATIVE REGARDING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PLASTICS THAT ARE VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

IN SPITE OF ALL PROBLEMS AND CRISIS THAT ARE CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION LIKE E.G.

- SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH
- FINANCIAL CRISIS
- ILLEGAL MIGRATION
- NEGATIVE IMPACT OF RUSSIAN SANCTIONS ON EU ECONOMY
- ENERGETIC CRISIS, ETC.

THE NEW INITIATIVE IS THAT RUBBER CORKS HAVE TO BE FIXED TO PLASTIC BOTTLES SO THEY WOULD BE NOT SPOILING ENVIRONMENT WHEN BEING SEPARATED FROM THE BOTTLES

IN SUMMARY

- AS IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE PREVIOUS SLIDES THE EU IS VERY INITIATIVE IN ADOPTING VARIOUS STRATEGIES, LAWS, INITIATIVES, RULES AND REGULATIONS BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR APPLICATION IN PRACTICE THERE IS NO INITIATIVE AT ALL
- THERE IS NEVER ANY CRITICAL ANALYSIS FOR WHAT REASONS THAT STRATEGY OR INITIATIVE HAS FAILED RATHER THEY CHANGE THE NAME OR ADOPT ANOTHER INITIATIVE
- THERE ARE DOUBLE STANDARDS TOWARDS NEW OR FUTURE MEMBER STATES. THEY HAVE TO MEET ALL CRITERIA LIKE IN CASE OF EURO OR SCHENGEN, ETC. WHILE EXISTING MEMBERS ARE NOT MEETING ANY OF THEM AT ALL

IN CONCLUSION:

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARE WELCOME!

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