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**BETWEEN DEBATERS
OR
THE NECESSITY OF ESSENTIAL BRIEFING CONCERNING
MAASTRICHT I AS MAASTRICHT II APPROACHES**

By Professor Const. GE. ATHANASSOPOULOS

The meaning that bear in themselves, the European Union, the Law concerning it, also the role which it plays universally, the risks included in it erga omnes and the various perspectives that it has, must be taken, in every aspect (positive, negative), as granted.

Therefore, the complete and systematic knowledge concerning matters of the European Union in general, independent of the sector that they refer to (constitutional, political, financial, social, cultural, educational and developmental etc.), is there as a *condicio sine qua*, so that not only the one which «occupies» and «exercises» any kind of power «Communal», «National», «Regional», «Local» can «function» and «work», but also the «average» Citizen, in favor of whom all these «National», «International» and «Interstate» Treaties and Accords have supposedly been «formed» and «signed» for and the Country of which he is a Citizen has «voluntarily» «cooperated» or «adhered».

But the acquisition of a complete and systematic knowledge concerning the Communal happenings collides in a series of particular difficulties, like for instance linguistic ones, also the pile of disposable data, the heterogeneous way that they register, the mechanisms of control, and the unwillingness (at times) of the Members that are involved etc..

Beyond those, it must be annotated, that in other Countries as opposed to our own, the Communal and European (especially the Western) «literature» concerning the European Union, its purpose, its problems and its perspectives is «continuing» for a number of years it «flourishes» and through the Media, «converts» new followers beyond the «specialists» and among the average Citizens; this situation does not occur «in our case», where as it is well known, in a simple discussion made in the Greek Parliament in 1992 a.d. the Maastricht Treaty has been ratified by almost the total of the Political World of the Country.

And it is this particular «living» «literature» which produces «knowledge»,

«doubts», «new perspectives», «new visions», «fears», «holly alliances» within the European Union, in ample sizes.

Under these circumstances, complete knowledge of the various aspects of the Law of the European Union, is not always attainable due to objective obstacles.

We must not overlook the fact that the typical approval of the Maastricht Treaty was slightly adventurous given the fact that some Countries, (like Greece for Example) ratified the Treaty, with a law facing no special problems and with a great majority in the National Parliament, in contrast to other Countries which faced severe problems, as it was either enforced

by the national legislation, or it has been decided (for other reasons) by a Referendum. This way for example in Denmark the first Referendum turned out negative (2/6/1992) and it was repeated with a positive outcome in favor of the Treaty in May 1993 ad., in France the ratification has been carried out with a Referendum, but with a slight difference of votes, in the United Kingdom the ratification has been delayed due to the conflicts between the Members of the ruling Party, in Germany constitutional problems have occurred etc..

Those occupied with the problem explain the arisen difficulties and the laborious confinement during the ratification due to the fact that no political briefing nor any serious publication of the crucial points of the Treaty have been provided by the E.U. or by National Governments during the stage that has preceded the period of the ratification of the Treaty. But this «negative» attitude of the Citizens of the various State Members of the E.U. probably poses the crucial question of whether it is tangible the formation and application of strategies, policies, measures and positive actions with the ignorance of the Citizens, for the «sake» and in «favor» of whom, all these are supposedly being planned produced and applied, without taking under consideration their various particularities.

The happenings in Greece, (December 1996 ad.) having as a cause the necessity of new internal regulations with the purpose of the desired convergence of the Greek Economy with those of the other Partners within the bounds of the European Union, demonstrate the size of the problem, which is caused due to the lack of informing the Citizens for the obligations, that the Country has under taken for their sake but with their ignorance about the implications...

Briefly: it is clear that in this case the verse of the New Testament: Get to know the truth and the truth will free you...

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗΣ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΕΩΣ

«ΙΕΡΩΝΥΜΟΣ ΠΙΝΤΟΣ»

Πρόεδρος Δ.Σ.: Αναστασία Ιερ. ΠΙΝΤΟΥ

**ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΕΣ ΑΝΙΣΟΤΗΤΕΣ
ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΕΣ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
Η ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΣ 1971-1991**

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