



of the democratic principle . In this regard , however, another italian expert, Paolo Ridola , is expressed in the following way: "The difficulties and questions arise , however, when you want to go to analyze what are the characters, the content and scope of the democratic principle in European level. This is due to the fact that the democratic principle has essentially made by the experience of the nation state: an experience built on the model of a sovereign state. " Then , without sovereignty , it will be difficult to realize an ideal synthesis between European institutions that are undemocratic and a popular feeling of belonging, not only geographical but also institutional, to the European Union. It is not just a vague reference to the category , perhaps demagogic , of a "Europe of nations", but is a definite need to make more sympathetic in the eyes of European

citizens, entity who perceived as unnecessary, expensive and inefficient. Only a Europe in which the people are sovereign has a future, otherwise , the only legal uniformity, can not build a European identity itself .

#### European Union and Member States; the distribution of powers

Now the member states, in legal terms, are very much related: European Union regulations and directives, are the foundation of what would later national parliaments approve. The absolute majority of laws passed in Italy for example derives from the impulse of the European institutions . The same is true for the other member countries. The Lisbon Treaty clarifies the division of competences between the Union and the member states. For example only the EU can make law in some issues: the main issue is the monetary politics. In some cases we have a cooperation in mak-

ing law between EU and member states. For example in this cases: social policies ,environmental policies, consumer protection and energy policies. In addition, the economic crisis has further weakened the bargaining power of member countries, thereby strengthening the European Union. The austerity policies imposed by the EU to countries like Italy , make it even more complex the relationship between citizens and institutions. The system of powers excessively tilted in favor of the EU has created tensions. About this the italian expert of law Vincenzo Sbrescia said: " The gradual expansion of Community powers (which had produced the excessive expansion of the tasks and powers of the EU decision-making level ) and the tendency to further expand the regulatory domain of the European institutions have underline the need to balance the regulatory powers be-