

2007. Taking into account the political, economic and social issues and wanting to respond to the aspirations of the Europeans, the Heads of State and Government have agreed new rules to governing the scope and modalities of future EU action. The Lisbon Treaty allows therefore to adapt the European institutions and their working methods, to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the Union and to consolidate the fundamental values that of Europe. The Lisbon Treaty is the result of negotiations carried out by the Member States within an intergovernmental conference. The treaty was ratified by each of the 28 EU countries. In accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the text came into force on December 2009. Today, therefore, the European Union embraces a large number of countries that have reached a high level of legal uniformity, suffice to say that right now the EU law is the main source for the legal systems of member countries.

EU institutions: the problem of the democratic deficit

Within the European Union there are institutions, similar to those that are in the national constitutional powers of the state. Within the EU, we have in particular: the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors. The first three bodies have a political nature, while the other two are courts that have a legal power. Here we will cover the first three. In addition to these institutions operate numerous committees with different tasks, not to mention many other or-

gans. First of all we can talk about the European Parliament; the members of this assembly are elected by direct universal suffrage, for a period of 5 years. Elections are held in each member country and the number of representatives is proportional to the number of inhabitants of each state. In each country, the electoral system for the European elections is different, for example, in Italy we have a proportional system with the ability to put on your preference, with a low minimum threshold that allows even minor political forces to have representatives in European assembly. The parliament building is either in Brussels or in Strasbourg and Luxembourg. The powers of the European Parliament, although not all exercised independently, but rather mostly shared with the Council; in fact this last one, is the heart of legislative power in the EU, and the problem is that the Council is not a democratic elected body. The main functions of parliament are due to the exercise of political control over the Commission by written and oral questions and the instrument of motion of censure. The examination of the Commission's legislative proposals. The approval of the annual budget of the Union, together with the Council of the European Union, the appointment of a body with a specific task due to complaints and malfunctions bodies (inspectors), so in defense of the rights of European citizens, and the establishment of commissions of inquiry. The main problem of the parliament is the fact that its functions can not be exercised

individually, is used to force the thing with the involvement of non-elected democratically bodies, as the Commission or the Council. Scholars talk about a real democratic deficit. For example, the well-known Italian professor of EU Law, Luigi Daniele, said: "Just as it was originally conceived, the institutional structure of the EU does not meet the principles on which are based the modern states. Specifically, it is not adhered to the principle parliamentary democracy, since, as we have seen, the institution with greater powers, including the power to adopt legislation, it is the Council, which is composed of representatives of the Governments of the Member States. Council therefore is in represented the executive power of each member state and not the legislature." From the notes of Prof. Daniele we understand that the center of the European institutional system is not a democratically elected body such as the parliament, but one appointed by the various national governments, such as the Council, to be honest a similar argument also deserves Commission. If the Council is a sort of legislative power of the EU, undermining, or at least relegate the parliament to an organ of control and supervision, the Commission, each appointed by the various national governments, can be described as the executive of the Union. The problem of the democratic deficit, however, was dealt with by the European institutions. We can not deny that there are in fact growing and progressive opening of the treaties in the direction of the affirmation