

Enlargement of the EU towards the Western Balkans in the light of the Treaty of Lisbon

NIJAZI HALILI

University of Iliria College, Prishtina, Kosovo

Abstract

Enlargement of the EU towards the Western Balkans in the light of the Treaty of Lisbon, in fact is the European Union geopolitics going? it is not quite simple, even extremely complex. This is because the reanalysis of these dimensions under the external or internal impact that seriously considers the fundamental concepts of the enlargement of the European Union are also contradictory within the EU itself.

Keywords: E.U. enlargement, Western Balkans, Treaty of Lisbon

The basic question

The idea of a continental, coordinated, geospatial concept of an all-inclusive character in the context of time, the aspect of civic communication, the marginal domination that will be dealt with in this topic, aims to analyze the comparison in the complexity of this non-guarantee process that it will also happen quickly in the face of current specifications. Undoubtedly, the European Union will expand to the geopolitical and supra-political understanding, especially in the century in which we live and in this context are the multidimensional efforts to achieve this goal. The Treaty of Lisbon is in its function. One of the fundamental issues is the divisions of the three-dimensional treaties addressed to the "Enlargement of the EU", "towards the Western Balkans", and finally the act of advancement "in the light of the Treaty of Lisbon" will be analyzed in the accepted view as "Political Codification of achieving the geopolitical actions of the European Union".

The underlying problem: The thesis consists in arguing that the Treaty of Lisbon, the era of the European Union, as far as this particular aspect of the European politics is concerned, and the expansion of the continent into a world of globalization, will be mainly the confrontation and ultimately the nonconfrontation of the concept enlargement. The achievement of this European perspective with the Treaty of Lisbon has finally closed the chapter, namely the geopolitics of geopolitical and geostrategic subjectivity or coexistence, coherence or influence, of the EU member states.

Geographical, Historical, Political and Economic Context of the European Union

Geographical Context:

During the 1980s, the EU continued to expand in the geographic context by accepting Greece (1981), Spain and Portugal (1986), Austria, Finland and Sweden (1995). These admissions brought the number of member states to 15, which is the current number. It is clear that the EU abstained from two very large European states, Switzerland and Norway, which they rejected with a national referendum. After May 2004, we will witness the admission of 10 new candidates to the European Union, including the former Warsaw Pact states. There were 3 candidates who jointly submitted the application for membership, Romania, Bulgaria, and the last Turkey still has no positive response while the other two have entered the EU. Facilitation remains the membership of Croatia, for which the European Union has been re-elected to meet certain conditions to open negotiations for its membership. Albania is also making its own efforts and has made positive progress so far.

In the geographic and territorial context it is difficult to say that the entity of the European Union has expanded its territory, since the actual territory is in fact the European Union itself. Based on the treaties of Maastricht and Nice, the EU's formetical criteria are firstly created as economic zones, and then as political areas. The Montevideo Convention on States' Rights and Obligations emphasizes that the criteria must meet the following criteria: - the status is permanent, - the defined area, - the government, - and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

Through the recent enlargement it is clear that the EU has actually increased territory and thus fulfilling the criterion required to become a superpower and to balance American hegemony, trying to limit global influence to the US.

Background Context:

The EU's story shows that European integration was a moving-continental one. Although the United Kingdom of Scotland was the founding member of the United States of Europe, Great Britain stayed out of the process until 1970. She stood out for many reasons, but the main reason was the rankings on the same side with rival France and the fear of losing the power epithet world ranking with other European peoples as a joint organization. One of the main protagonists for a united Europe was the Italian resistance fighter, Altiero Spinelli.

In 1944, Spinelli discussed "a federal Europe, a written constitution, a supernatural government directly responsive to the peoples of Europe and their governments, together with a commonly controlled army, but without any other permissible force."¹

The 50s will witness the creation of three separate communities The 50s will witness the creation of 3 separate economic cooperation communities. These three communities together were the foundations of creating what we know as the European Union. In 1952, six states ratified and began the creation of the first entity, called the European Coal and Steel Community (BETHÇ). The first signatory members were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In 1957, these states created two other committees by signing two treaties in Rome, which entered into force in 1958. One of these treaties established the European Economic Community (BEE), the other being the European Atomic Energy Community (BEEA) known as the Euroatom .

The BEE's goal was to expand the common market in all sectors not only for coal and steel. The goal of the Euroatom was to create a common market for the atomic energy industry. These communities had a goal, creation and unification of European

¹ Derek Urwin, *The community of Europe: a History of European Integration since 1945* (New York:, Longman, 1991), fq.8

economies as a time vector. From the cooperation generated by these and other organizations began the beginnings of major European integrations, which grew into what is today the European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU)², an overwhelming ethnicity composed of 15 European countries dedicated to European political and economic integration, after May 1, 10 more seats were accepted, increasing the number of 25 Europeans standing up, the Secretary of State US President George W. Marshall recommended that the strongly supported US provide large sums of financial assistance to European countries to help reconstruct. Thus was born Plan Marshall, who had an unlimited success.

Politic Context:

We now have clearer EU engagement in its foreign policy. So far, we have seen that the EU attaches great importance to its relationship with the world and its engagement to make the world safer, contributing to the fight against international crime, and fighting international terrorism where states have a good co-operation, either by solving problems in the Balkans, indoctrining them financially to raise their economies or by solving a conflict as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

But we have not yet seen a unified EU foreign and security policy. Member States still have full sovereignty over foreign policy. That no common foreign and security policy is best evidenced by the case of Kosovo in 1999, then of Iraq and now of the recognition of Kosovo's independence. Henri Kessejger in 1970 describing the non-conformism of this policy said: "If I want to talk to Europe, whom should I call"

This example shows that the EU has started as such and is still unpolitically unified.³

Economic context:

Currently, the EU is the world's largest export-import market and a true economic power. It is second behind the United States in size for

² The European Union (EU), an overwhelming ethnicity composed of 15 European countries dedicated to European political and economic integration, after May 1, 10 new countries were accepted, increasing the number to 25

³ Martin Walker, "Gorge Marshall: His Plan Rebuild Europe", Europe, April 1997 fq. 22-23

gross national product, and counts about 20 percent of world trade, compared to 14% of the US and 9% of Japan. The EU today is more than ever present in global geo-economic policy.

It is one of the actors that can not be underestimated in world politics. The EU has also become a force in world economy and trade. This great economic power consists of a large market that has reached 500 million consumers since the first eastern enlargement, making it one of the member states, showing the greatest role in the world. The economic power it possesses has made it one of the world's leading economic partners and a great humanitarian donor. The EU's foreign policy does not only consist of donating aid. But the rate of aid granted by the EU is important to register.

The EU is now the biggest donation of humanitarian aid and the fifth country behind the US, Japan, Germany and France in terms of financial donations. The EU and its member states provide 55% of the global amount of international aid for development and 2/3 of aid.⁴

Dimensions of European Union Geopolitics towards the Western Balkans

Regional context:

Southeastern Europe is the only part of contemporary Europe which has remained completely untouched in the Euro-Atlantic structures. The unpopular issue of Kosovo as a whole of the Albanian issue together and the weak states of the Western Balkans are one of the main obstacles to delays the overall integration of this region into united Europe. NATO and European Union military forces still guarantee peace and security in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Security in Southeastern Europe has risen with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to NATO, as well as Albania, Croatia and Macedonia to join the European Union. On the other hand, based on the current positive trends in this year, the 2009 membership of Albania, Croatia in NATO has brought undisputable reflections and stability to the Balkans. These integration flows are changing fundamentally the geopolitics of this part of Europe, which is expressing increasing security and prosperity in the region.

⁴ Only in Kosovo in 1999 had allocated 378m euros as emergency humanitarian aid, 127m euros for reconstruction, while in 2000 were allocated 360m euros. For more see: Reka, Blerim. *The Right of the European Union*. KIEAI; Pristina; 2001.

Also, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia have been part of the Partnership for Peace (PfP). With the status settlement, Kosovo will meet all the conditions for membership in this NATO structure. Accession to the PfP will have an important impact on increasing Kosovo's national security and creating conditions for economic development

European geopolitics assesses the region of South Europe and especially the Balkans. The geopolitical position of the Balkan Peninsula is a major milestone. It is a crossroads connecting Europe, Asia and Africa. The geographical and economic position on the one hand, as well as the many connections and approaches to different peoples and countries of Europe and the World, make this region a priority region in order to avoid any political, geopolitical and geo-strategic development expectations this region and beyond.⁵

The challenges of the European Union so far

We have seen how the EU approaches the global problems that are taking place in the world. The global issues for which the EU is interested is the development of fragility and stability in the fragile countries, such as the Balkan countries. These countries promoted by European integration are improving living conditions, developing more democratic procedures, developing a market economy, etc. all to bring the EU closer. The EU also tries to resolve violent conflicts, such as that of the Republic of Macedonia, which has been a success of its diplomacy, and as is now the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis for whom the EU is intent on a just solution and peace. EU troops are replacing NATO troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This action to preserve peace in Bosnia will be a challenging mission and at the same time will witness how much EU troops can withstand and preserve peace as NATO has done so far. Also, the EU daily is concerned about the development of human rights, such as the case of China, where the EU has a good co-operation, or the case of Turkey where it is concerned about violating the rights of the Kurdish minority. She is also interested in fighting international crime and international terrorism, especially after the terrorist act in Spain. In the last decade, the EU was involved not only in humanitarian projects, but also in political negotiations with different regional and

⁵ Lleshi Abaz, *Balkan Geopolitics and Security Prospects in the Region*, 2009, f 11-12

global states. Apart from the previous summits with the Mediterranean countries, or the first with Africa, the EU in 2000 continued the fourth round of negotiations with China. Negotiations on world trade are also known. In a word, the EU is increasingly presenting not only as a power economy along with the US and Japan, but also an inevitable factor in contemporary international affairs⁶.

It is also required to respond to the ambition of geopolitics of Europe and could we envision a wider geopolitical and geopolitical extension, whose challenges reach the operational connotation beyond these borders we know as today's Europe.

Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans⁷

The European Council in March 2003 reiterated that the future of the Western Balkans was the EU and promised the Union's full support to Balkan countries for consolidating democracy, stability and promoting economic development. Integration of Western Balkans into European structures is a top priority for the Union. The enduring extension and signing of the Athens treaty in April 2003 should inspire and encourage the Western Balkan countries to follow up on the successful reform path and to step up efforts in this direction. However, the EU stresses that the speed of the Western Balkans movement towards the EU lies in the hands of these countries and depends on the performance of each country in implementing the relevant reforms set out by the Copenhagen European Council and the Stabilization and Association process. The main points that they need to complement to make possible the implementation of these reforms are:

1. Further consolidate peace and promote stability and democratic development.
2. Progress of the Western Balkan countries towards the EU within the Stabilization and Association Process.
3. Fighting Organized Crime. Cooperation on other issues of justice and home affairs.
4. Promoting economic development.

⁶ Topic: Political Economy of Interethnic Relations in Macedonia; ESI. Translate. KIPRED; Skopje, Berlin; 1 October 2002

⁷http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/enlargement_process/accession_process/how_does_a_country_join_the_eu/sap/thessaloniki_agenda_en.htm

5. The consolidation of the future and the improvement of regional cooperation in the consolidation of the common future of BP countries have an important role in the following:

- Return of Refugees and IDPs;
- Promotion of reconciliation through education, social development and culture;
- Improving regional cooperation.

Lisbon Treaty New European Union era

The Treaty of Lisbon, after the meeting of the Presidents and Heads of Governments of the 27 Member States of the European Union, of 13 December 2007, held in Portugal's Lissabon, was approved by the states of the Union individually and passed through a two-year journey until finally after some cuts it was approved by all member states of the EU. The problem was presented by Ireland, which once did not ratify this referendum, to pass the second time, Poland's reluctance and the Czech Republic's financing and its President Vaclav Klaus. Since the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic has issued a verdict that the Treaty does not contradict the Constitution and after a great deal of pressure on President Klaus, he signed it and, according to the terms of the Constitution, he later entered into force on 1 December this year.⁸

This treaty will bring an era and new opportunities to European integration, enabling opportunities for the so-called "Western Balkans" to be integrated within the EU. Regarding functioning, the EU will be more practical, dynamic and more reformed by enhancing the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments of member states. Now, not only for the countries mentioned earlier, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia, but also Kosovo will be part of these integrations. Now there are hopes that the European Commission will also give Kosovo a "ROAD MAP" for visa liberalization, though a long and difficult process, finally Kosovo, receives recommendations from the European Commission for liberalization, and entered into force, on 1 April 2016, the Implementation of the Stabilization Assistance Agreement (SAA), which implies that Kosovo opened a new chapter and opportunities for

⁸ Consulted by Ass. White Bashota.
Institutions deriving from the Treaty of Lisbon (electronic communication version)

integration of the country and the use of foreign investment and economic development.

What changes the EU Lisbon Treaty so far?

We are mentioning some of the more important shortcuts to avoid getting space. The basic principles of subsidiarity apply to the exercise of EU competences, but only in cases when they are within the competence of the Union and can not be regulated differently and better by member states. The Lisbon Treaty ultimately removes the desire and dilemmas of any EU constitution. With this treaty, the Union wins its President with a two-and-a-half term and an external minister who will replace the EU's Foreign Representative and the place of the Foreign Policy Commissar. This is the only treaty that allows states to be willing and willing to go out of the EU. "Article 49a", which reads: "Every member of the EU has the right, in accordance with its constitution, to leave the EU. Under Article 8, every citizen of an EU member state is directly a citizen of the union without other procedures. The European Parliament will have no more than 750 MPs, where each state may have a minimum of 6 MPs and a maximum of 18, according to the number of the population, while the EC will no longer have 27 commissioners but only 15 of them. With all these and many other changes that have not been mentioned, the EU makes great reforms that make it more efficient and closer to citizens, to the benefit of the Union, to the benefit of

Institutions arising from the Treaty of Lisbon⁹

"President"

The most notable change that comes from this treaty is the creation of the post of President of the European Council. This president will chair all meetings of executive leaders (prime ministers or presidents for presidential republics) and will represent the European Union in foreign affairs. Analysts declare to foreign media that the role and power of the President will depend largely on the person who holds the post for the first time. "If the first European Council president is to be a central political figure, then this post can turn into a

⁹ Consulted by Ass. White Bashota. Institutions deriving from the Treaty of Lisbon (electronic communication version)

presidential role rather than a ceremony," says EU Survey Professor Adam Uollig for "ThGuardian" . The post of President will have a 2.5-year term and will replace the rotating six-month rotation of the EU presidency among the country's prime ministers.

"Foreign Minister"

"Who to call if I want to talk to Europe" - is the rhetorical question left by history by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who in this way showed a serious lack of interaction in the European Union's foreign policy. His descendants will now be able to call the de facto EU Foreign Minister, who will hold the new position of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as the position of the Vice-President of the Commission European. "Creating this position is the first step towards the establishment of a common foreign policy of the European Union, in addition to the legal possibility that is already being created by a legal person," says Robert Atkins, deputy conservator of the European Parliament. The High Representative will lead not only the Foreign Relations Directorate and the Directorates-General of the European Commission dealing with foreign policy but also the meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the EU.

"Prosecutor General"

Another fundamental change of the Lisbon Treaty is the creation of the position of the Prosecutor General, followed by the "state crime" he will cover. In this way, the role of the General Prosecutor of the European Union will be the prosecution of crimes occurring in more than one EU state, in a position similar to that of the Federal Prosecutor in the United States of America. Crimes that will be within the competence of the EU Attorney General are trafficking in narcotics, human trafficking, terrorist organizations, and the like.

"New Institutions"

This treaty attaches importance to the union level and to some other institutions. In this way, the European Central Bank becomes the central monetary institution of the EU, responsible for its monetary development. Meanwhile, the European Court of Justice acquires the powers of the highest European court, which may appeal the decisions of the First Instance Court, an institution established by the treaty.

Citizens will be able to sue EU member states if they issue laws that are not in compliance with the European Union directives or regulations or are in contradiction with the EU's Fundamental Human Rights. "

“Decision”

The Lisbon Treaty also facilitates decision-making in the EU institutions. In this way, de facto the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers of the EU turn to co-decision institutions, as 80% of the areas that the EU will engage will have to deal with the decision of both institutions. The EU Council of Ministers, playing the role of the European Parliament's chambers of the European Parliament, will have exclusivity in several areas, such as the exercise of EU competences in foreign and defense policy, but by Council decision European ones and this competency pass along with co-decision.

Lisbon Treaty Objectives¹⁰

1. A DEMOCRATIC AND TRANSPARENT EUROPE

Within this goal, the European Parliament takes on a stronger role, the empowerment of citizens, and for the first time, the right of states to withdraw from the EU is recognized, if they feel the need

2. A MORE EFFECTIVE EUROPE

In order to increase efficiency, the decision-making process changes, from voting to consensus in the majority vote. This part will come into force in 2014.

3. A EUROPE OF RIGHTS AND RIGHTS, FREEDOMS, SOLIDARITY AND SECURITY

To promote European values, the TL incorporates the Charter of Fundamental Rights into European Law, offering better protection for Europe's citizens and more solidarity with them.

4. A EUROPE AS PROTAGONISTS IN GLOBAL SCENE

The Lisbon Treaty aims at bringing together all the foreign policy instruments by developing and setting new policies. With TL, Europe gains a clear voice in its relationship with international partners and

¹⁰ Consulted by Ass. White Bashota. Institutions deriving from the Treaty of Lisbon (electronic communication version)

promotes its world-wide interests. In this framework TL provides the member states that I will respect.

LITERATURE SOURCES

1. Derek Urwin, *The Community of Europe: History of European Integration since 1945*, New York, 1991.
2. Martin Walker, "Gorge Marshall: His Plan Rebuild Europe", Europe, 1997.
3. NATO, *RUSIA Agree to Partnership*, "The Wall Street Journal", May 15, 2002,
4. Lheshi Abaz, *Balkan Geopolitics and Security Prospects in the Region*, Geer, 2009, p. 68

Other sources consulted:

1. http://europa.eu.int/abc/history/index_en.htm#top
2. <http://www.eustudies.org/home.html>
3. http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/dgs_en.htm
4. <http://ec.europa.eu>
5. http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/enlargement_process/accession_process/how_does_a_countr_join_the_eu/sap/thessaloniki_agenda_en.htm