

M. V. Voytenko

postgraduate student of the Department of International Relations.

I. I. Mechnikov Odessa National University.

R. 32, French Bul., 24/26, Odessa-58, 65058, Ukraine.

Tel.: (380482) 633259. E-mail: *cis_asc@paco.net*

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE CONTEXT OF INSTITUTIONAL CHANGING IN THE POLICY OF THE EU

Theme of this article — changing of regional policy in the European Union, as a symbol of institutional changes in EU politics. Regional policy of the EU is described on example of regional associations.

Key words: European Union, regional policy, association, Maastricht treaty.

Situation in the European Union in the 60-s and the 70-s is characterized by intensification of territorial disproportions. The reason — general deterioration of current situation, crisis of traditional industries, and appearance of non-developed states in European Union. These factors forced EU institutions start to develop conceptual ideas on regional policy. Because of it they organized general directorate on regional policy, in 1975 committee on regional policy was created. It was working under the rule of Council of Ministers of EU. Also this year European fund of regional development was created.

Creation of this fund was the most significant event for formation of supranational regional policy of EU. Thanks to this fund were saved or created new workplaces in economy of many backward regions. Also were found money for development of infrastructure in these regions (roads, ports and tourist complexes). At the same time money of fund were to perform arresting role (up to 30-40% of prepayment financial capital). At the same time body of investments was made up from national capital investment. Simultaneously became stronger regional trend of two other structural funds — European social fund and European fund of orientation and saving of agriculture.

On the beginning of 90-s idea “Europe of regions” started to get more and more popularity. As a matter of fact, region of Europe aspired to play important role in processes, which were interested for them. Regions wanted to determine their way of development. [1, p. 78].

Idea of “Europe of regions” began to get real weight after it penetrated into great policy. In October of 1988 European Parliament resolved resolution “Charter for Regionalization”, in 1994 Committee of regions was created. It got status of advisory body. According to Maastricht treaty, Committee of regions includes representatives of regional and local authorities. It plays great part, because not all members of EU have developed regional structure. In some states local authorities work under great pressure of regional authorities.

According to Maastricht treaty, heads of regions can represent their states at the Council of ministers. Certainly, they represent interests of whole state. However regions didn't get right of appeal to European court, for example, in the case of infringement of principle of subsidiary. There were some reasons for it: distinctions of legal status in the legislation of EU members could result in judicial contradictions.

Except of Committee of regions and direct presentation of state by regions (at the Council of ministers), European regional leaders had auxiliary ways of participation in European policy. On the beginning of 90-s was created a whole series of organizations, which were urged to represent interests of European regions — Commission of regions, Council of regional and local communities and Assembly of regions of Europe. Many regions created in Brussels their informational representatives. [2, p. 217]. Per se, these organizations performed also political functions. They lobbied regional interests on European level.

But there is one question — why exactly in 80-s and 90-s we could see increasing of interest to “Europe of regions”. Russian researcher of this problem Irina Busigina designates general and specific reasons of this process. [1, p. 81] To general reason she put inherent system of community ability for self-development and qualitative growth. To specific reasons she put these: 1) dogmatic and bureaucratic character of legislative activity of EU, which became apparent with increasing of integration processes. This reason greatly reduced effectiveness of the process of making decisions and execution of policy of community; 2) political ideas of equality were decisive for EU, which declared the aim of creation of united internal market with free transference of goods, services, money and man power. But these ideas to some extent were discredited by regional and social disproportions in Assembly.

Moreover, Single European Act (signed in 1986) and Maastricht Treaties (1991) intensified anxiety on future similarity of community. Developed market model of regional policy had during its development three metrological paradigms. First — urgent help to crisis regions (from the end of 1920-s up to 1940-s), second —transregional redistribution of economic rise with orientation on balanced regional development, creation of poles of rising (1950-1970-s). Third — its conversion of regions (from the middle of 1970-s up to the end of 1980-s). The last one was based on neoclassical and technological theories. It was oriented on a highest possible using of internal potential of every region, support of small and middle business.

Ukrainian researcher of this problem Dergachov declared, that role of regional factors in social development strengthened processes of globalization. According to his opinion, at the system of international relations advantage get states, which can create optimal ratio between processes of globalization and regionalization. During globalization transformation of institutes of state authorities can be seen. It can be seen in the transferring of part of state functions to organizations like UN, international-regional organizations and multinational corporations. At the same time the enlargement of rights of subnational territorial authorities (regional, municipal and provincial) can

we seen, and also trends of regional development with using of local cultural, nature and other features as new fundamental strategies. [3, p. 305].

So, regions assist defending of social relations from negative challenges of globalizations. Also, regions play role of independent subject of international relations. In the past, boarder regions at most were considered geopolitically and strategically as strategic non-recognized territories. Therefore their problems were out of attention of central power. But because of the realization of the idea about “Europe of regions” appeared necessity of creation of accurate system and structure on a regional level.

In this system regions are links, which tie together boarders of neighboring states. Especially, much “nature regions” are situated on the territory of two or even few states. Therefore boarders in Europe now not divide, but unite countries and nations. Boarder cooperation became important motivation element, driving force for development of regional economies and creation of favorable climate for investments.

It is necessary to say, that aspiration for greater autonomy “from down” don’t contrary to process of deepening of European integration. Even more-regionalism and regional feudalism supplement each other. Integration without regionalism could sharply strengthen bureaucratism of central institutions of EU, and also brought to further deepening of the process of division of region — to elite (centre of decision-making) and secondaries with poor economy.

Classical regional economy with using of market tools was created in countries of Western Europe. In its development it passed through 5 fundamental phases.

First phase — in the 30-s — took place knowing of importance of regional problems and passing of first programs of help to some poor-developed and poor-industrial territories. Such necessity was resulted from consequences of economic crisis of 1929-1933. At the same time regional measures became to work only in two states — Great Britain and United States. [4, p. 503].

Second phase — the 40-s — the 50-s. At this time the number of states, which began to carry out regional measures, was risen. Although a lot of them didn’t recover themselves completely after war and were forced to concentrate energies on tasks of national development, regional ideas excited economists and politicians. [4, p. 504].

Third phase: the 60-s- beginning of the 70-s. This is original Renaissance of regional policy. That time was wormed entire system of regional policy in high-developed states of West. Necessity of this policy was recognized in states, which guardedly think about ideas of special interference of state at the structure of regional proportions in conditions of market. This time system of regional programming was approved. It’s the most active and effective form of regional policy in conditions of development of commodity-money relations. At the same time tools of regional policy were examined, and stimulus’s of economic development of problem regions were examined too.

Fourth phase — the middle of the 70-s — 1993 (signing of Maastricht treaties, which gave impulse for performing of new, supranational regional policy

in European Union). This phase of evolution of regional policy is connected with partial coming back — because of new economic crisis. It enveloped developed states after 1974. Particularly, became more popular macroeconomic, not regional aims. Although system of regional programming, which was created earlier, continued to develop. And what is more, projects of regional programs include supranational elements since that time.

Fifth phase — since 1993 up to now. Signing of Maastricht treaties opened direct way to transformation “Europe of national states” to Europe of regions.” [4, p. 505-506].

A long time almost all European regions were not represented at the system of EU institutions. And they hadn't own money for participation in deciding of their own fate. But finally regions got organization, that has credentials to make decisions in regions favour. It is Assembly of European Regions (AER). It was created 14-15 of October 1985. First general conference of AER hold 25-26 of October 1985 in Strasbourg. Founders of AER — nine crossregional organizations. First president of AER was representative of France. Now Assembly includes almost 260 regions-members from 33 states and 14 cross-regional organizations.

AER — it's political form of organizing of European regions, and representative of their interests on European and international levels. Political voice of European regions — it's aim of existing of this organization. Except of this main goal, statute of AER determines 6 tasks for activity.

The first is organization and development of the dialogue, consultations and cooperation's between all regions of Europe, on terms of respect to constitution, laws and treaties, that work on the territory of states, and also respect and guarantee of cultural diversity in Europe. Other goals of Assembly — assistance regionalization in Europe and support of principles of subsidiary and complementarity between local, regional and national levels, and level of European institutions.

In general, activity of the Assembly of European regions aimed to approaching of European regions and accordance them possibility to take part in the building of Europe and realization goals of European integration. Other tasks of AER — assistance to transformation different regions of Europe to connective elements between European Union and citizens, advance of regional democracy, with taking into account existing diversity of regions and according to principles from “Declaration on regionalism in Europe”; development of common projects in different spheres and their realization.

Highest organ of AER — General Assembly. It includes all members of organization. Next organ —bureau. It includes representatives, elected by regions-members of AER. Next — Presidium. It consists of the AER President, two Vice Presidents, the Vice-President Treasurer and Presidents of each of the AER's committees. In the interim period between Bureau meetings, and by delegation, the Presidium can meet and take decisions that are then submitted to the following Bureau. [5, p. 107],

There are 4 committees: 1) Economy and Regional Development (Regional economic development, employment and knowledge society, cohesion policy,

environment, energy, rural development/agriculture and infrastructure, tourism, 2) Social Policy and Public Health (social policy, equal opportunities, demographics, public health and emergency planning), 3) Culture, Education and Youth (Culture, education and training, youth, media, and information technologies, international and interregional co-operation), 4) institutional problems. Members of AER pay membership fees.

In 1971 Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) was created. It includes about 90 European regions and different organizations.

Association of European Border Regions is a voluntary association too. Its members pay entrance and member fees. At the same time organization gets subsidies from European Commission and from national governments.

Association of European Border Regions work for boarder and transboarder regions in Europe with goal of demonstration of their specific problems, possibilities and activities in general, presentation of general interests of regions in national und supranational parliaments, organizations and institutions; initiating, supporting and coordination of general activities with participation of regions in Europe; exchange of information and experience for determination of general interests of regions in the sphere of realizing of trans-boarder possibilities and resolving of transboarder problems, and also with a goal of cooperation and determination of ways of resolving of problem situations.

Association of European Border Regions includes General Assembly, Executive Committee, Secretary General. The General Assembly is the highest-ranking organ. It elects the President and the members of the Executive Committee, decides on the admission and expulsion of members and fixes the membership contributions.

The Executive Committee is elected for a term of 2 years. It is composed of the President, the first Vice-President, at least three further Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, the Treasurer and at least 20 members as representatives of the border and cross-border regions. The tasks of the Executive Committee include the issuing of fundamental statements of AEBR and the co-operation with European and national institutions, organisations and associations. The appointment of the Secretary General also is the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

The President is the highest-ranking representative of AEBR. He represents AEBR in dealings with third parties and is authorised to make decisions jointly with the Secretary General who, in turn, has the authority both to act solely on behalf of and to represent AEBR.

AEBR may form committees and call in representatives from European and political committees, associations or social groups who will be given an advisory vote. A specific "Scientific Committee for Cross-border Co-operation" which is composed of scientists and practitioners from all across Europe is tasked with advising AEBR on all issues of cross-border co-operation, including the presentation of possible solutions. Conclusion of a co-operation agreement in 2002, covering, for instance, regional policy and cohesion, Community Initiatives, institutional issues, transport, research and innovation etc.

Regular co-operation with the European Economic and Social Committee (ESC) in the areas of social policy and competition. The European Convention has AEBR participate in its discussions about a future European Statute.

As far as the South East Europe Stability Pact is concerned, AEBR is directly involved in the activities, being the co-chairman of the “Committee on Democracy and Cross-border Co-operation”.

Working community of the Danube states was created in 1990, as a result of signing of a declaration in Austria. 1982 there was symposium “Danube — the way of life of Europe”, only after eight years heads of governments of 14 Danube states signed declaration and officially created Working community of the Danube. The aim of the working community, according to Article 1 of its Joint Declaration, is to enhance cooperation between members in order to further the all-round development of the Danube area in the interest of its inhabitants, and to contribute to peaceful cooperation in Europe.

Its particular goals: promoting European integration, promoting regionalism, cross-border cooperation in the Danube area, cooperation with the Danube Cooperation Process (DCP), saving and conserving “cultural heritage”, including its careful use, youth initiatives, preserving the environment, cross-border planning, traffic issues, especially increased use of the Danube as an environmentally sound waterway, cooperation on tourism, cooperation between the towns and ports on the Danube, contributing to the EU Danube Strategy.

Creation of all these organizations and its working for new policy show, that European region are looking for new identity and they find it. A century age region was only a part of state, now, with help of different organizations, regions can influence the policy in Europe, have their own lobby. All these changes demonstrate changes institutional changes in policies in Europe.

Literature.

1. Busigina I. The present and the future of “Europe of regions” (problems of European regionalism) // World economy and international relations. — 1993. — № 9. — P. 78–86.
2. Regional policy of the EU after its enlargement: Collection: Editorial board. Vlasjuk O. and others. — Uzhgorod: Lira, 2004. — 244 p.
3. Dergachov. Foundations of regionalistic science — European regionalism // Regional policy on the current phase of making of the state: problems of Dergachov V. Foundations of regionalistic science — European regionalism // Regional policy on the current phase of making of the state: problems of decentralization, risks and perspectives of using. Materials of of annual institute conference (31 of October, 2006). Head of editorial board of magazine — Izha M. — Odessa: Odessa regional institute of public administration 2006. — P. 305–309.
4. Gladkiy U. Chictobaev. A. Foundations of regional politics: Course. — Saint-Petersburg: Publishing house Mihailov V. A., 1998. — 659 p.
5. Studennikov I. Transregional cooperation as factor of process of regional integration and instrument of regional development// Regional policy in states of Europe: Experience for Ukraine/ Kyiv. Center of institute of East-West; editor Maksimenko S. — K. — Logos, 2000. — P. 98–137.

М. В. Войтенко

Кафедра международных отношений ОНУ им. И. И. Мечникова
к. 32, Французский бул., 24/26, г. Одесса-58, 65058, Украина

**РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЕ АССОЦИАЦИИ В ЕВРОПЕЙСКОМ СОЮЗЕ
В КОНТЕКСТЕ ИНСТИТУЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ ИЗМЕНЕНИЙ
В ПОЛИТИКЕ ЕС**

Резюме

Статья посвящена вопросу изменения региональной политики в Европейском Союзе. Рассмотрены различные периоды в региональной политике стран Европы, а впоследствии и ЕС, а также работа ряда межрегиональных ассоциаций, в частности, Ассамблеи европейских регионов — крупнейшего подобного объединения в ЕС.

Ключевые слова: Европейский Союз, региональная политика, ассоциация, Маастрихтское соглашение.

М. В. Войтенко

Кафедра міжнародних відносин ОНУ ім. І. І. Мечникова.
к. 32, Французький бул., 24/26, м. Одеса-58, 65058, Україна

**РЕГІОНАЛЬНІ АСОЦІАЦІЇ У ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОМУ СОЮЗІ
В КОНТЕКСТІ ІНСТИТУЦІОНАЛЬНИХ ЗМІН У ПОЛІТИЦІ ЄС**

Резюме

Стаття присвячена питанню змін регіональної політики у Європейському Союзі. Розглянуті різні періоди у регіональній політиці країн Європи, а згодом і ЄС, а також діяльність ряду міжнародних асоціацій, зокрема, Асамблеї європейських регіонів — найбільшого подібного об'єднання в ЄС.

Ключові слова: Європейський Союз, регіональна політика, асоціація, Маастріхтська угода.