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MAKING EUROPEAN POLICIES WORK: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
COMMUNITY LEGISLATION IN THE MEMBER STATES: VOLUME I
COMPARATIVE SYNTHÈSES AND VOLUME II NATIONAL REPORTS

Heinrich Siedentopf and Jacques Ziller (eds.)
Sage, 1988, 237pp., £30.00 and 752pp., £45.00.

There are three typical Euro-bored: the Europhobe, the Europhile and the Eurocademic. The Europhobe is the most lively because s/he has plenty of good material: Eurobable, Eurocrats and Euroagriculture/corruption. Europhobes, especially in Britain, tend however to be underinformed, in either a Thatcherite or Bennite mode. They can nevertheless cheerfully rely on the indifference, ignorance and chauvinism of their national audiences to make plenty of waves in the mass media. Their collective efforts tend to produce anecdotal condemnation and hate-ins, as with the recently established Bruges Group. Europhiles and Eurocademics by contrast tend to be overinformed and to share the touching belief that large quantities of objective Eurodata will overcome Europhobia. Their collective efforts tend to produce the Eurobook.

We have all come to know what the Eurobook must look like, even though its format was not specified in the terms of the Treaty of Rome or the Single European Act. First, the Eurobook must have contributory essays composed by Eurocademics from each of the EC member states. Each essay must be as similar as possible to the next one to show how successfully Euro-integration is proceeding, at least in higher education. Second, if written or researched before Spanish and Portuguese entry, all the essays must be written in or translated into English – if the authors are British, Danish, Dutch, German or Irish – or composed into French – if the authors are Belgian, French, Greek, Italian or Luxembourgers. However, whatever language the essays are finally produced in, the reader must be persuaded that the entire volume was written with word-processing software dedicated to the functional requirements of German lawyers. Finally, the Eurobook must exhibit few overt hostilities. Jokes are not appreciated, perhaps because like poetry they got lost in translation. Dull solemnity integrates OK! The sole eminently permitted must stem from Eurodeforestation policy. The makers of Eurobooks seem to be in favour of maximizing the number of trees sacrificed in the cause of their production.

The contributors to these two Eurovolumes have produced an almost calculated insult to the Green movement, over 1,000 pages of text printed on non-recycled paper. They heavily confirm stereotypical expectations of Eurobooks. The quality to quantity, rigour to laxness, and insight to output ratios are unimpressive. The degree of duplication and overlap will be grist to Europhobic mills. There was no legitimate excuse for publishing a total of 80 pages of colloquium in the first volume. The speeches appear presentations are lightweight, repeat one another, and in any case by the time they appear the diligent reviewer has read most of the key insights because they have already been summarized in Siedentopf and Hauschild's resumé, given in the first 80 pages. Publishing the colloquium programme and the lists of participants merely adds trivia and vanity to the medium. Why didn't the editors include the menus and travelling expenses available to the participant? The organization of the two texts is also disconcerting. There are no indexes appended to either book. There are comparative tables of contents for the national reports but they are no substitute for indexes, which should be mandatory for books of this length. Even the list of contributors to Volume I manages to be inaccurate, informing us that Chita Ionescu is a Professor at LSE.

The research conception which lay behind this book was reasonably sensible: a systematic examination of the implementation of an identical set of directives and regulations issued for completion before 1980. Moreover, many of the comparative conclusions are equally sensible, if unsurprising: for instance the content of most directives is often a summation up of specific national interests on the grounds of the smallest common denominator

(Vol. I, p. 29); or the general picture seems to be that the implementation of Community legislation follows the same patterns and meets the same obstacles as the implementation of the respective national legislation' (Vol. I, p. 58); or the idea that there is a link between the preparation of Community law and its application, 'the more intensive the preparation and the more those who have to apply it are included in the creation of the Community rule, the less problems there will be during its application' (Vol. I, p. 191). There are some less warranted conclusions, such as the claim that 'German legislation can be considered to be of an advanced standard due to the density of its regulations' (Vol. I, p. 55), and also rather feeble efforts at quantitative legal sociology and low quality graphical presentations (Vol. I, p. 51-4 and Vol. I, p. 516). However, the key defect in the two texts is not actually the conclusions but rather the inordinate length at which they are presented. In particular the second volume, the national reports, should not have been published. The essays contained in the second volume are admittedly very thorough, usually too thorough, and overly solid because the authors have usually obediently followed the editors' injunctions as to what information they should collect about the fate of 17 diverse directives, and the application of regulations in the transport sector. If several of the essayists nevertheless rise above the constraints under which they composed, it still does not provide sufficient cause for publication. It is self-indulgent to publish what amounts to the research notes which form the basis for the comparative conclusions given in Part I. Naturally the scholarship and hard work of the authors of the national reports needs to be recognized – perhaps by making them joint authors of comparative conclusions produced through more rigorous editing – but surely it does not have to take the form of payment in published pages. Sage and the editors have only themselves to blame if these books are as overpriced, over-produced and unmanageable as the Common Agricultural Policy, and as likely as not to add to the growing warehouse of unread Eurobooks. The European Community's worst enemies are its friends.

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GOVERNMENTS, MANAGERS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Anthony Ferner
Basil Blackwell, 1988, 183pp., £30.00.

This book is concerned with the processes of industrial relations change in public enterprises. Specifically, the study examines the impact of political pressure for greater efficiency and 'commercialism' on management strategy by

asking how industrial relations in state enterprises respond to economic crisis and to attempts of governments to formulate political programmes to combat that crisis. The heart of the study is an examination of state railways in two countries, Britain and Spain, but it is not intended to be a book primarily about railways. It aims to use detailed empirical observations both to draw out general trends and processes that occur in state enterprise industrial relations, and to illuminate the factors that create different responses in similar industries. It will, I hope, show that political processes and structures are important variables mediating between underlying economic trends and pressures, and industrial relations outcomes within the state enterprise. In doing so, it should contribute to the debate about the nature of the capitalist state and its degree of relative autonomy from the processes of capital accumulation (p. 2).

The book consists of an introduction, eight substantive chapters and a conclusion. In the introduction the author emphasizes the need to concentrate on the role of political