

European Union Public Policy

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 2

The basis of, and principles underpinning, E.U. public policy: harmonisation, mutual recognition and convergence?

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

Additional Sources:

Journal of European Public Policy Vol.14,
No.5, 2007 (Special Issue: Mutual
Recognition as a New Mode of Governance)

Duina, F. and Raunio, T. (2007) 'The open method of co-ordination and national parliaments: further marginalisation or new opportunities?', *Journal of European Public Policy*, 14:4, pp.489-506.

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

- what are the defining characteristics and overarching principles categorising E.U. public policy?

CONTEXT

- historical and theoretical frame
- +
- underpinning principles

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

1. Harmonisation and convergence
2. Diversity and mutual recognition

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

BUT, by Maastricht Treaty (1993) Social Charter stated account should be taken of “diverse forms of national practices, in particular in the field of contractual relations”

- stressed the need to maintain the competitiveness of the Community's economy

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

Harmonisation of public policy not defined as, or suggested to mean, complete unification of social systems and public policy

- But acceptance of certain common principles and standards of public policy

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

- harmonisation seen as means of avoiding 'welfare tourism'
 - and avoiding distortion of economic 'competition'

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

Single European Act (1985) –
convergence in fiscal and
employment law

- improvement in infrastructures and standards of education and training
- for competitive Single European Market harmonisation of public policy necessary

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

- ***BUT*** Jacques Delors, as Head of the E.U. Commission,

- *advocated*

COHERENCE/COHESION

= *Acceptance of diversity and*

‘MUTUAL RECOGNITION’

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

***COHESION* = Member states
'encouraged' to co-operate and
co-ordinate their efforts in order
to bring about greater economic
and social cohesion between the
regions**

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

‘Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers’, 1989

- harmonisation in context of freedom of movement – object of harmonising conditions of residence in all member states
- harmonise duration of paid leave from work
- harmonise safety conditions at workplace

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

‘Community Charter of the Fundamental
Social Rights of Workers’, 1989

- allowed member states to continue with national differences in social protection systems
- Social Charter (Maastricht Treaty 1993) –
no mention of harmonisation
 - respect for national differences

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

‘Open Method of Co-ordination’ (OMC)

- formally launched at Lisbon EU Council,
March 2000

- purpose to spread legislative (and
therefore, policy-making) ‘best practices’
across the EU Member States – primarily in
the areas where the EU had no formal
regulatory competence

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

SUMMARY:

1. Each enlargement made harmonisation less likely
2. ‘Deepening’ versus ‘widening’ – contradiction between economic and monetary union necessitating public policy convergence and expansion of E.U. complicating convergence

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

SUMMARY:

3. Differences in public policy in each member state due to stage of social and economic development of each country – plus specific forms of national public policy resulting from social, economic, political and cultural traditions

BUT - can identify some underpinning principles of E.U. public policy

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

SUMMARY:

- i.e. principles of E.U. public policy based on 'core values' of social progress (i.e. high levels of employment, social protection, raising living standards and quality of life, promoting social cohesion and social justice)

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

SUMMARY:

‘Europeanisation’ of public policy?

- based upon framework of principles of social protection, social welfare, social justice, equality of opportunity
- A balance between harmonisation, convergence, diversity and mutual recognition

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

SUMMARY:

‘Europeanisation’ of public policy?

- A multi-level, varied approach model of E.U. public policy integration, respecting diversity through mutual recognition
- in different public policy areas and at different public policy levels, different integrated approaches and degrees of integration employed

European Union Public Policy

Lecture 2

Communitarianism

versus

Cosmopolitanism