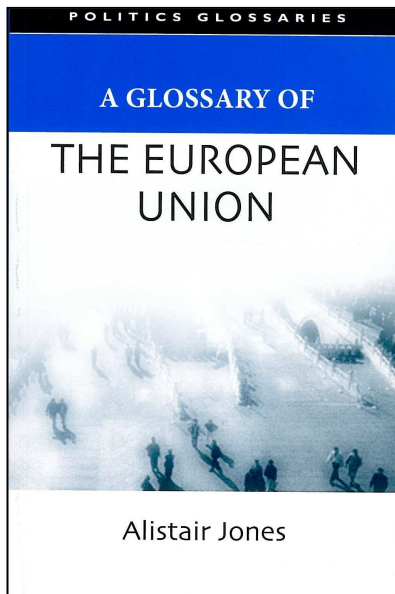


Alistair Jones, *A Glossary of the European Union*, Edinburgh University press, 2008, 163 p. (Cristina Radu-Golea)



Designed as a glossary of the terminology used in the EU, Professor Alistair Jones' book, known all over the world for his studies on Great Britain politics and government (*Essential Topics in British Politics and Government*, 2005; *Britain and European Union*, 2007), co-author (with Phil Cocker) of *Contemporary British Politics and Government* (2002), captures the reader's attention with a whole terminology specific to the EU: elements of neo-functionalism, integration, over nationalism, various concepts, definitions, relevant analyses of simple terms or syntagmas/logos (over 270 words).

Simple terms (*budget, co-decision, comitology, competence, constitution, confederalism, deepening, directive*, etc.) undergo accurate analyses. Syntagmas belonging to the Euro-slang (*acquis communautaire, assent procedure, common commercial policy, constructive abstention, immigration policy, uniform electoral procedure*) bring in information about the institutions' functioning, about legal procedures or laws. The logos denote legal, consultancy or political institutions (*CAP – Common Agricultural Policy, CFSP – Common Foreign and Security Policy, ECB – European Central Bank, EMU – Economic and Monetary Union, ERDF – European Regional Development Fund*), also offering, together with detailed explanations, information regarding history or data of general interest for the European citizens.

The concepts included in the glossary (*Europenisation, federalism, functionalism, governance, harmonisation, integration, intergovernmentalism, neo-functionalism, regionalism, regulation*) contain, apart from definitions, detailed explanations regarding the formation ways, the part played in the proper functioning of the EU. The tables complete the information through exact and updated data about all the countries within the European Union and it is also presented the chronological manner in which the events took place. Thus, we may note the rigorous information regarding the member countries' votes, the general directors in the Council of Ministers in twenty-eight domains, the expansion of the Union over a 34-year period (1973-2007), the political groups and the number of

members in the European Parliament (in January 2007), the members that are not included in the European Parliament, etc.

Surprisingly for a glossary, there are also presented the names of political figures, closely connected to a political, economic or social act. They bring in precious information for understanding these concepts. The politicians' biographies emphasize the part they played in the development of the European Union. For example: Jean Monnet, Margaret Thatcher, José Manuel Barroso or Jacques Delors.

It is also worth considering the explanatory parts, in a very convincing manner, with pragmatic accents. The author empathizes with the reader - a citizen of the European Union with an average education - who needs to understand a new, specialized language in the sociopolitical and economic domains. There are fully detailed the fundamental rights of the European citizens, thus providing the documents' transparency and the common people accessibility.

The term *Euro* has got an important place in the book, by its inclusion in various proper names of institutions or documents. Another internationalism that should be mentioned is *Ombudsman*, a term used to denote a legal function within the European Parliament.

In conclusion, the book represents a useful material for a thorough knowledge of European principles and concepts, with exact data, that may be easily accessed whenever necessary.