

# I confini e l'identità

Il Parlamento Europeo  
e gli allargamenti della CEE  
1961-1986

Daniele Pasquinucci



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Polo Interregionale di Eccellenza Jean Monnet - Pavia  
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***I CONFINI E L'IDENTITÀ.***  
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***E GLI ALLARGAMENTI DELLA CEE***  
***1961-1986***

**Daniele Pasquinucci**

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## Summary

This book examines the role of the European Parliament in the enlargement processes of the European Community (EEC). Therefore, it covers the period between 1961 (first application for membership of United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland) and 1986 (entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC).

In his introduction, the author discusses the thesis, defended by several political scientists, that the EEC institutions (European Parliament, European Commission and Court of Justice) have not been a major player in the process of European integration. According to this thesis, developments in European integration are an exclusive consequence of choices made by the national governments. On the contrary, the historical analysis shows that the institutions of the EEC/EU gave an important contribution to the dynamics of European integration.

The first chapter analyses the role of the European Parliament in drawing a "political identity" of the EEC, through the definition of the relations with the European countries (and the former European colonies) that were outside the European Community. Thus, the European Parliament establishes some basic criteria for the future enlargements of the EEC.

The second chapter deals with the enlargement to the United Kingdom. During the years of the first UK application (1961-1963), the European Parliament sought to defend the *acquis communautaire*, which was challenged by the exceptions to the treaty of Rome required by the British government as a condition for entering the EEC. The entry of Britain into the European Community (1973) proposes once again the issue of the political identity of the EEC, especially in relation with the Europe's role in the world.

The Mediterranean enlargement is examined in the third chapter. In this case, the activity of the European Parliament has had a threefold purpose: 1) to facilitate the entry of Greece, Spain and Portugal into the

EEC also to support their transition to democracy, 2) to emphasize the political dimension of enlargement with respect to its economic and commercial dimension, and 3) to exploit the opportunity offered by the enlargement to ask for more powers and competencies.

**Note on the Author:**

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