

Abstract

This diploma thesis „Italy and its Approach to European Integration. European Policy of Italy on a case of the Constitutional Treaty“ deals with Italian approach to European Communities/European Union and analyzes it on a case of the debate about the future of the EU, which was held since 2000 and led to the approval of the Constitutional Treaty. Italian position was characterized as euro-enthusiastic during the whole history of European integration. This paper examines the approach and European policy of Italy after 2000 on the basis of the analysis of speeches, interviews, proposals and documents of Italian political representatives during the debate, which was then continued on the European Convention and after that a new reform was approved by the Intergovernmental Conference. In the meantime, Italy went through the elections and a change of government, which did not inspire confidence concerning the europeistic commitment. Coalition parties were considered as eurosceptic and the traditional defence of Communitarian method and deepening of the integration towards the federation were not awaited. The first part of this thesis deals with the historic background and the traditional europeistic approach. The second part is dedicated to the debate about the future of the EU, separated into several sections: the beginning of the debate, the European Convention, the Intergovernmental Conference, where is paid special attention to the Italian Presidency, ratification and main points, which influence the Italian foreign and European policy after 2000, i.e. euroscepticism of political parties, changes in the institutional framework and external circumstances. European policy remains pro-integration, but some movements towards the intergovernmental cooperation were recognized, at least in some policies, or towards more accentuated national interests and greater visibility which is connected also with personalities of Italian political scene, especially with the prime minister Berlusconi.