

'The Law of an Elite' or: Problems with the Coming European Unification

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“The Law of an elite” is the title of a commentary in *Die Welt* (The World), one of the great German newspapers. The commentary complains that Germans (and citizens of other European countries of course) more and more have to live according to laws that never were voted on in a parliament, never were openly discussed and often are not known even to the national judges. When the “European Court” decides, this decision automatically becomes law in all member countries of the “European Community”. When European bureaucrats, the new elite governing Europe, formulate a new law to harmonise the different national laws this very often becomes a binding national law without any further notice. Writes the author Joachim Neander about the “European Court”: "It is something like a constitutional court without a constitution with an influence which is without parallel internationally".

Neander is right in seeing the dangers of the new European legislation. But he does not see the whole picture. It is not only legislation which is no longer under the influence of a parliament or an elected government. It is the European structure itself. For example you cannot vote against the treaties between the European countries which make up the European Community. Those treaties are now normal German law that can be changed by majority but are binding on every government and include hard sanctions in case you want to get rid of them. If the treaty states that every government of the member countries has to pay a certain percentage of the agricultural budget of the European Community all countries have to pay no matter how many billions have been wasted.

The European Community is in favour of strong protectionism for agricultural products. The European Community guarantees a fixed price for all agricultural products produced in Europe and lifts the low prices of products from outside of Europe. Even those member countries of the European Community who are fighting this kind of socialistic protectionism internationally have to finance this gigantic European protectionism themselves because of older treaties. Nobody seems to know a way out. The European bureaucrats coming from the different countries according to a certain key are not interested in any changes because they live on the necessity of thousands of officials for this protectionism.

It is a growing elite of those so-called European officials who plan the future of Germany who never had to face an election, who are not responsible to a government but only to other European officials and who are far from any real control. Even the “European parliament” does not have the power to stop them.

But the main problem is not the situation itself, but that the citizens of most member countries got used to it and are not interested in the ethical question behind this uncontrolled law making.

For them law is nothing holy but just the decision of an ever changing majority in the parties and the parliaments, who in turn try to satisfy as many pressure groups as possible. Most things could just as easily have been decided the other way round. Every pressure group in society tries to fight for some specific laws and no one is interested how all those different laws fit together. So in Germany the law on genetic research protects human life of the unborn child outside a mother very strongly, but the law on abortion and on harming children in the womb does not consider the unborn to be a human.

The idea, that behind the single laws stand some untouchable, holy laws, which legitimate the whole legislation is totally lost, even though the German constitution states just that.

Law becomes a game in which several big and some small fractions of the population try to get some points. There are no overall perspectives, no ethics above or behind the laws. And so the Europeans are ready to give away their freedom to just another group playing this game without democracy or any responsibility. If certain laws are just the result of some legislation roulette, it does not matter if those laws are not authorised by a parliament and there is no stated reason for them. It does not matter if those laws just have been put together by some bureaucrats trying to satisfy the political situation in some countries at the particular moment and that the authors of those laws never will be made responsible for their decision.

But the most sad thing is that the European evangelicals do not offer any alternative. As they do not study the biblical law in detail or do not take it seriously, they have no overall personal ethics to offer—not to mention a political ethics—which can be shown by the fact that there has not been an evangelical ethics available since the Second World War until today, no matter from which perspective.

"Where there is no revelation, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov 29,18, KJV).