

**iUS**

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ALBERTO ROMANO and ROBERTO CAVALLO PERIN for *Diritto Amministrativo*

1. *Diritto Amministrativo* (a quarterly review) was founded in 1993 by a group of academics, experts on the subject, some involved in PhD programs in the sector. Its origin within the university defines the nature of the review: a place for publication of the findings of research projects, studies and reflections, starting from the academics who set the tone with their higher prestige. One of its aims is to continue offering younger scholars an opportunity to introduce their work to the scientific community and publish their first studies, especially with regard to those who show brilliant research skills. We derive the utmost satisfaction when those skills are confirmed by the awarding of a chair.

The scholars who write for *Diritto amministrativo* are very knowledgeable about the developments of positive law, but their main role is to attempt to systematize case-law – above all whenever it is creative – and the legislation, particularly that of the last decades, which grew exponentially without being able to meet more than short-term needs.

In recent years, we wanted to revitalize the role of jurisprudence, most of all in the public law domain, and restore the importance of institutional culture. We are firmly convinced that assessment of the frequent amendments to legislation should follow evolutionary paths and that the continuous reconstruction of the legal system should develop without severing every link with a traditional doctrine which should be updated rather than abandoned.

Interpretation of legal provisions is the first step, an essential one, of course, for the knowledge of the systems of which they are part: first of all the national legal system to which they belong, but more and more with regard to relations with other national, supranational and international legal systems, because of the closer and closer links recently established in Europe as well as across the world.

Reference is made to the major innovating factor of the European national legal systems of the last years: the gradual formation of European law and its influence on and penetration of every national legal system.

2. The editors of *Diritto amministrativo* thus felt the need, at this time, of the agreement that we are about to underwrite jointly with Reviews coming mainly - but not exclusively - with the future in mind, from other European countries towards which we feel we have greater cultural affinities.

In the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Italian public law culture in general, and the administrative law domain in particular, was strongly linked to other national cultures, most of all French and German. The evidence of those links was the structure of the *First Complete Treatise of Italian Administrative Law (Primo Trattato Completo di Diritto Amministrativo italiano)*, edited by V. E. Orlando in which the finest scholars of that period took part and featuring a careful, accurate comparison with other European cultures

After the First World War there was a withdrawal into national experience, not limited to Italy. In the last decades, not only in Europe, the international spread of ideas and the relative doctrines and schools of thought has grown strongly, due to the rapid development of social and economic factors that work equally in groups of countries that share similar political systems with public laws and the relative culture moving closer and closer.

The interest in comparison is mainly grounded on the assumption that the differences among the national legal systems to be compared will provide useful tools to better define one's own identity. More recently, such interest seems to focus on what those national legal systems have in common, even on the converging elements of the European and of the Western legal cultures, to compare with Eastern countries and their different cultures.

The convergence of cultures in the long evolution through the centuries can be represented also as a return to the strength of the origins, which aims to continue under the banner of that symbol of cultural unity expressed by the *jus publicum europeum* from which, not coincidentally, our cultural network draws its name, in order to first connect and then bring our reviews scientifically closer.

The most advanced technology and excellent design we enjoy should not steal the light from the cultural project we wanted to define in this brief paper, first of all following the best tradition that moves from the past in order to innovate also with regard to the shaping of relations among scholars. We wanted to establish an institutional relationship among scientific communities that can be improved by strengthening our old personal relationships more and more, through stable connections among our reviews. *Ius-publicum* is meant to be a tool for legal science within the public and administrative law domains, a tool able to spread the findings of our scientific communities' research, thus promoting a useful comparison among different schools of thought.

If it started as an initiative of – let us say – senior academics, it undoubtedly was seen as a venue for our young scholars who we wanted to see grow together since they are destined to be the protagonists of a new scientific community that, with its origins in European and then Western culture, should be able to select the most useful innovations in order to revitalize those legal systems that are still essential benchmarks.

We know we share their roots, since they characterize us as regards other important cultural traditions that, across the world, were able to bring their relative nations to challenge world leadership. Young scholars, valorised in this way, will have to take up the challenge, rebuilding the two levels and the two functions that, as we said, define our way of understanding public and administrative law.

Alberto Romano and Roberto Cavallo Perin

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