

Preface

The Lisbon Treaty is the result of lengthy negotiations which began in the 1990s and which were particularly intensive at the time of the Convention on the Future of Europe, in which it fell to me to represent the European Commission together with Michel Barnier. The treaty came into force less than two years ago, so it is still not easy to clearly make out the extent or the direction in which it has changed the way the European Union works or the balances established between its various institutions.

Notre Europe has attempted to analyse the consequences of the treaty's implementation by producing a series of publications discussing the main European institutions and by organising a debate on the evolution of the Community method. It is in our DNA to continue paying a great deal of attention to these issues, which may seem to be mere technicalities but which are in actual fact of crucial importance for the European Union's legitimacy and effectiveness.

In this context, the great merit of the study produced by Alain Dauvergne is that it offers criteria on the basis of which we can identify the lessons to be learned from the treaty's implementation, while pointing at the same time to the numerous

uncertainties still remaining at this stage. As an observer familiar with recent European institutional negotiations, Mr. Dauvergne offers us a series of very enlightening impressions and analyses, all of which contribute to a common debate that is all the more crucial in these difficult times.

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