

Review of the book entitled *Basic integration and cooperation policies in the area of internal affairs and justice in the European Union: Legal and institutional framework of the area of freedom, security and justice* by Boris Tučić

A SERIOUS APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION

COBISS.RS-ID 132252417

UDK 351.74/.75(4-672EU):347.9(4-672EU)

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Research on European Union in Republika Srpska, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina has so far been apologetic in nature – without a critical or scientific approach. Unfortunately for science and professional discourse in the countries of this region, most of the published books are either hymns about this international organization or conference proceedings and guides that uncritically present the EU as a fantastic emerging state or an alleged equal community of European countries. These guides set out requirements for specific areas which countries need to meet to become EU members or how a member state should behave to meet the bureaucratic requirements of the supranational EU

However, with a dose of political and legal analysis, Tučić writes about one segment of the development of the supranational organization of the EU. Tučić views the European Union in a research and quality manner and presents it theoretically.

In his book, Tučić explores the political and legal context of integration and cooperation in the area of internal affairs and justice of the European Union. Tučić looks at the most significant problems that this form of EU action is facing. The author focuses on the legal, institutional and regulatory framework of the so-called area of freedom, security and justice as one of the goals of integration and cooperation in the EU. In this regard, the author considers extensive legal documents and laws regulating this area. These are very complex processes which take place at the national and supranational level, which is burdened with various challenges. The author himself is skeptical about the direction in which this EU's goal will develop, bearing in mind that it is an area of cooperation, but also resistance to the supranational regulation of this area, which is expressed by the national policies of the EU member states.

The monograph consists of preface, seven chapters, concluding remarks, bibliography and the author's biography.

Following the preface, the issues related to the characteristics of the European Union as a legal, regulatory and institutional matrix in which the project entitled *Area of Freedom, Security and Justice* is set are discussed in the first chapter. The second chapter addresses the first initiatives and the beginning of cooperation in the area of internal affairs and justice. The third chapter deals with the development of the idea of supranational regulation of internal security through amendments to the contractual and strategic framework for the creation and implementation of policies in this area. The fourth chapter provides an overview of the most important mechanisms and instruments of each policy implemented within the *Area of Freedom, Security and Justice*, including institutional structure monitoring, its development and mode of operation. These are freedom of movement, asylum, visas, migration, police and security issues related to the prevention and fight against crime, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. Chapters five, six and seven discuss the European Union's activities in the area of internal affairs and justice, with a special emphasis on the criminal law cooperation achieved at the European level, both in material and procedural part, as the most challenging segment within the *Area of Freedom, Security and Justice*. The author also provides a review of the activities of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Boris Tučić wrote his book when the European Union was faced with various crises, which raise the question of the future of that supranational organization. The migrant crisis is particularly noteworthy. In this regard, Tučić emphasizes sharp differences between EU countries, not only in terms of migrant quotas, but also in terms of appropriate modalities for dealing with this security risk. The German-led bloc of states managed to impose its proposals and the institutions in Brussels, including the Court of Justice itself, sided with them. Tučić concludes that resolutions regarding these issues, which can be adopted by re-voting, cannot bring anything good to the EU countries. He believes that the opposite is happening and that the actions of member states in facing the challenges of the migrant crisis clearly indicate that the lack of solidarity on key issues only leads to further deepening of the negative situation in which the EU has found itself.

Tučić's book, which is an academic work but can also be used as a textbook at colleges, has been lacking in the literature on the European Union and is of great importance because such a textbook has not been published in Republika Srpska so far.