

Fabio Masini

Profile

Fabio Masini, economist, Professor of Theories and History of International Economic Relations at the University of Roma Tre, where he also holds a Jean Monet Chair on European Economic Governance. He was Secretary General and is now Vice-President of the European Movement in Italy; he is Managing Director of the International Centre on European and Global Governance.

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Abstract

Human beings possess multi-layered, overlapping identities and collective needs. In turn, these require multi-layered collective choices, institutions and decision-making. On the other hand, everyday life is organized according to the monopoly of nation-States towards citizens, mainly through the provision of (collective) public goods. Interdependence challenges such monopolistic structure.

In order to tackle interdependence and weakening legitimation, the nation States usually relies on two models: decentralization, where ultimate sovereignty is still in the hand of the nation-State; and instrumental federalism, where (technocratic) agencies of economic and political governance are substituting for political (democratic) institutions.

In this note, we argue that the alternative solution to tackle the current and future complexities in the world is not a return to exclusive national sovereignties (recently largely advocated) or the acceptance of one of the two previous models, but lies in constitutional federalism, where genuine multi-layered institutions and democracy are created.

