

**From the Congress of Local
and Regional Authorities to the
Committee of the Regions.
A History of European Integration**

Fabio Zucca



**Jean Monnet Interregional Centre of Excellence
University of Pavia**



Polo Interregionale di Eccellenza Jean Monnet - Pavia
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Summary

The issue of subnational and supranational federalism is today highly relevant. The interest comes from the evolutionary process of European integration and its ability to attract countries that haven't yet taken part in it. The debate on the future EU structure is on going: the alternatives are a Europe of Nations or the European federation. Indeed, the issue of the future role of local Administrations, the ones standing below the State institutional level, needs to be discussed too, especially in relation with the on going deep crisis that grips financial and economic institutions. On the one hand we could foresee a loss of autonomy in favour of a strong central supranational authority; on the other hand we could actually hope for a reassessment of their role in relation to the State level.

In this framework, the research focuses on an extremely rich and first-hand archive, reporting the contribution and action of local governments in the process of European unification since the 1950s. Conceived as a study on the contribution of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions to the European integration process, the research has carefully reconstructed the battle of the movement of local governments in favour of the integration process itself and for the enforcement of the representation of local authorities in the European institutions, conceived as the first attempt to empower a multi-level governance approach inside a continental federal system.

Note on the Author

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