



*trans-national level and most obviously within the European Union. The conference was only able to begin to assess the implications of the seeming contradiction between the “legitimacy crisis” being experienced by the EU as a result of the recent Lisbon Treaty and the fact that objective global problems still seem to be driving the Union towards both wider and deeper forms of supra-national integration.*

*With the wisdom of hindsight it might have been helpful if the conference had had the opportunity to discussing the more recent debates about possible federalist forms of decision making in other trans-national global regional associations apart from the EU. These take different forms and are at very different stages of development within organisations such as the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN), the South American Union (formerly MERCOSUR), the African Union and perhaps also the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).*

*Another fascinating aspect to the challenges facing “European federalisms” which might be examined in future is the contrast between the evidence of popular hesitancy and political controversy over ever greater “federalising” reforms at the European Union level and the seeming inevitability of deeper forms of federalism being adopted at the “national” level within EU Member States – such as Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and especially the United Kingdom.*

*John Palmer – October 13, 2010.*