

THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF G8

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Preliminary research project

Introduction

The G8 is the meeting of the 8 most industrialized countries. Since 1975, the heads of state or government of those most important democracies have been meeting annually (mainly in summer) to talk about several questions of common relevance.

The main issues of discussion usually deal with those economic and political issues that affect most the domestic debate such as the international one, both from a macroeconomic perspective than from a microeconomic one. Among them, there are issues such as the international trade, the relations with developing countries, East-West economic relations, energy, and terrorism that are of common concern not only for those who take part to the summit.

The first meeting (G5) was held in Rambouillet and it was really informal. The starting idea was to create a chance for the leaders in order to develop their personal relations and to share ideas about complex issues affecting mainly the world economy. The first question is: is it still like this? In order to answer this question two paths of analysis must be followed.

The first is the study of the organizational framework itself. From this perspective, the impression is that the starting idea has broadened by time into something more complex, even if definitely not assessed yet. This result is due to the fact that there are certainly some binding rules (even if not written) to organize the meeting, regarding where to meet, who is speaking first, how to vote, what to vote, when meeting.

The other field of investigations concerns more the operational framework of the G8. The final declarations of the summit, for example, are getting each year more and more precise about aims, goals and purposes. Moreover, they can affect actors that are other than the ones involved in the G8 meeting that agreed on that. The great challenge of the G8 in the next year will be then legitimacy and consensus of those who nor can pay an active role, neither can take part at all.

The empirical puzzle

There is a clear tendency to open the boundaries of the State, not only by signing treaties with other countries but as well as by cooperating through informal cooperative solutions¹. The G8 meetings held a central position in the global governance system how it is developing today worldwide.

Then the main question about the G8 is: is there a fixed organizational framework of the G8 and how does it involve national administrations?

The question is important since it can give the idea of how much the old concept of "*the State as a unit*" is actually not valid anymore and whether – and eventually where - a new one must be searched².

The research is relevant, even though there is a consistent economics and public relations' literature about the G8, nevertheless, there is not an analytical study of the organizational framework from a juridical (mainly administrative law) perspective. The organizational framework has never been studied from this perspective, nor by the economist, since they usually stress the accent on the economic results of the meeting, neither by those who study international relations, since they usually take care on the diplomatic and political asset of the G8.

Methodology

The research will consist of three parts: after an introduction on the general problems of globalizations and the institutions involved in the process, the central body of the research will deal with the organization of the G8. This part of the work will analyze the history and the evolution of the G8 (from G5 to G8), the nature of the participants, the rules of the meetings (places, time, issues, discussions), such as the organizations that is beyond it (especially from the point of view of the administrations actually involved in it). The second part will consider the operational framework of the G8, meaning the procedures and the effects of the final declarations. The third part and the conclusions will regard the role of the G8 in the world order and the nature of it - both from an organizational perspective than from an operational one - as part of the new global governance system, in order to achieve the result to draw the new concept of the State.

¹ Ferrarese M.R., *Le istituzioni della globalizzazione*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2000; Guy Peters B., *Globalization, Institutions and Governance*, Jean Monnet Chair Paper n. 51, Firenze, 1998.

² Cassese S., *Relations between international organizations and national administration*, in XIXth international Congress of Administrative Science. Actes-proceedings, Bruxelles, IISA, 1985, p. 159; Strange S., *The retreat of the State: the diffusion of power in the world economy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University press, 1996; Strange S., *Chi governa l'economia mondiale?*, Bologna, il Mulino, 1998.

Even if the juridical methodology is partially different, the most fitting methodology for this kind of research is the modeling one. Therefore, I will examine the theory of organization in administrative law, trying to set out principles and criteria in order to transfer the results to the G8 and deduce something from this.

The first summit held in Rambouillet in 1975 was highly informal. Year by year, the meeting has got more and more formal. Therefore, my research will develop according to an evolutionary perspective. I will analyze the different periods of the history of G8. Time will be taken into account according to progresses in the organizational framework from a formal perspective.

In order to know if there is an organization and what is its juridical relevance, it will be necessary to answer to several questions, such as if there are civil servants working all the year for it, how the decision making process develops, what is the relevance of the final declaration, who implements it (if an implementation is needed). The next step could be to investigate if there are rules, written or not, and if they are formal and legal.

Some case study and some theory of game applications could help to draft the context.

The case of Wto, for example, whose birth settles beyond a series of meeting within the Gatt, could be useful to understand the evolutionary perspective of G8. An other interesting case as well is the one of the council of Europe.

Finally, the applications of game theory to the meetings of G8 could help in order to understand how the decision making process develops and why.

Apart from the tradition legal academic way of research, I will get information from the economic and international relations' sources first³ and, moreover, I will collect statistical data as well. Nevertheless, the main information will be taken from a number of interview I will take, mainly with people who worked for the G8.

³ Bayne, Nicholas. *Hanging in There: The G7 and G8 Summit in Maturity and Renewal*. The G8 and Global Governance Series. Aldershot, UK, Ashgate Publishing, 2000; Hajnal, Peter, *The G7/G8 System: Evolution, Role and Documentation*. The G8 and Global Governance Series. Aldershot, UK, Ashgate Publishing, 1999; Hodges, Michael R., Kirton John J., Daniles, Joseph P., *The G8's role in the new millennium*, The G8 and Global Governance Series. Aldershot, UK, Ashgate Publishing, 1999; Putnam, Robert D., and Nicholas Bayne. *Hanging Together: Cooperation and Conflict in the Seven-Power Summits*. Rev. ed. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1987.