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**The role of Italy in the preparation and signing of the Maastricht Treaty
(1989–1992)**

The article attempts to make light on the role of the Italian Republic in the process of preparation and signing of the Maastricht Treaty. The analysis is provided taking into account Italian Republic as one of the EC and EU founding members. It shows the aspects of the Italian decision–making process related to the issues of the Treaty itself and the peculiarities of the formation and implementation of Italian national interests on the international arena.

The article examines the attitudes of the Italian political leaders and Italian society towards the processes of further European integration. The analysis is contextualized by taking a historical perspective in particular the period of 1989–1992 which was characterized by the number of Intergovernmental Conferences leading to the signing of the Maastricht Treaty itself.

Keywords: Maastricht Treaty, Italian Republic, European Union, European Community.

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