

Tobias Schumacher: Die Europäische Union als internationaler Akteur im südlichen Mittelmeerraum. Zum Verhältnis von „Actor Capability“ und EU-Mittelmeerpolitik, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2005, ISBN 3-8329-1130-8 (Schriften des Zentrums für Europäische Integrationsforschung, Band 63).

The last monograph on the Mediterranean policy of the EC/EU written in German was published in 1983. For the last 20 years, no study has been produced that addresses the Euro-Mediterranean linkage empirically as well as on a theoretical-conceptual basis with regard to the structural and institutional characteristics of the EC/EU. The author, Dr. Tobias Schumacher, Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Mediterranean Programme at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute in Florence, attempts to close this gap. He bases his study on the often neglected concept of *Actor Capability*, which was introduced by Gunnar Sjöstedt in 1977. This instrument allows to deepen the understanding of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework and the Southern Mediterranean. It also offers an explanation for the fact that EU Mediterranean Policy has been – over the more than forty years of its existence – frequently subject to substantial pressure for reform.