1) *Making newcomers more European than Member States. The evolution of the conditions of admission to the EU.*

Admission to the EU is the result of a combination between the provisions of the Treaty and the practice of Member States and EU institutions. The assessment of this practice shows that it has been marked by four main features. The first feature is that the all rounds of admission have been based on the conditions that the Copenhagen European Council enshrined in 1993.
The second feature is to be found in the application of the conditions of admission at an earlier stage of the relationship between the European Union and the countries eligible for admission. The degree of compliance with the requirements for admission varies as a consequence of the nature of the relationship the EU aims to establish.
The third feature concerns the task admission was vested with in the different enlargments. In the case of Greece, Portugal and Spain admission as such contributed to ensure compliance with the conditions, while in the admission of the Central and Eastern European Countries and Western Balkans the procedure of admission is intended to promote the principles on which the EU is founded.
The last feature is strictly connected with the third one. The conditions newcomers are required to fulfill have not applied to Member States and the assessment of applications for membership is not based on an equal application of the criteria.

2) *Reforming without revising? The nature of the practice in the admission procedure.*

The role practice has been playing in the development of admission raises the question of its legal nature. The issue involves many important legal problems which are related to the specific features of the EU legal system. The Court of Justice has never mentioned customary law as a source of EU law. Furthermore, the Court in Luxembourg has upheld that the rules of the Treaties are not at the disposal of the Member States or of the instituions of the EU. As a consequence practice can produce binding rules only if it is *preater legem*. The practice on admission as a whole respects this limits. Some of the conditions can be considered as customary law, while others represent a subsequent practice in the application of the treaty which establishes the agreement of the parties regarding its interpretation.

3) *Religion and labour law in the case-law of the Court of Justice.*

In the *Achbita* and *Bougnaoui* cases the Court of Justice focuses on the wearing of veil at workplace. The final outcome of the inconsistent reasoning of the Court of Justice is that employees can hide their willingness not to dislike their customers behind a general ban on the display of all visible signs of political, philosophical or religous belief. The Court of Justice lowered the standard of protection of the fundamental right to freedom of religion compared with the protection guaranteed by the ECtHR. Furthermore, the Court sitting in Luxembourg betrayed the function human rights play. The double nature of the right to freedom of religion makes it clear that its protection could contribute to shape multicultural and multifaith society as an inclusive community, setting aside prejudices and racism.