I will discuss some of the complexities that, for the making of a coherent and powerful European policy, derive from the fact that the bulk of research funds in Europe is distributed at the regional, meaning State, level. Some of the key questions are: Does the EU have enough of a financial muscle for it to play an effective leadership, or at least coordinating, role? Does it want to? Beyond the EU I will also review the role of the inter-governmental agreements organizations, and discuss the Brexit conundrum.

Biographical note

Andreu Mas-Colell is currently Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. Formerly he was Professor of Economics at Harvard University (1981-96), Professor of Economics and Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley (1972-80) and Chairman of the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (2006-2010). He holds Honoris Causa Doctorates from the universities of Alacant, Toulouse, HEC (Paris), Universidad Nacional del Sur (Argentina) and Chicago. He has received the Rey Juan Carlos Prize in Economics (1988), the Pascual Madoz (National Research Prize), (2006), and the Premio Fundación BBVA Fronteras del Conocimiento en Economía, Finanzas y Gestión de Empresas –shared with Hugo Sonnenschein- (2009). He has served as main Editor of the Journal of Mathematical Economics (1985-88), and of Econometrica (1988-92). Professor Mas-Colell is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and was its President in 1993. In 1997 he was elected International Member to the US National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Honorary Member of the American Economic Association. He has been a Sloan Fellow (1978-1980) and Guggenheim Fellow (1985-1986). Also from 1999 to 2005 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association. In the year 2006 he served as President of the European Economic Association. From 2000 to 2003 he was Minister for Universities and Research of the Government of Catalonia and President of the Advisory Scientific Committee of Telefónica Investigación y Desarrollo (2005-2008). He served as General Secretary of the European Research Council (2009-2010) and Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia (2010-2015). In 2021 he was elected president of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory Society. Currently he is chairman of the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST) and the Banc de Sang i Teixits (Blood and Tissue Bank).