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## Flirting with a “Europe of the Regions”

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### Abstract

Nationalists of several stateless Nations of Western Europe have embraced the idea of a “Europe of the Regions.” At least for some time, these nationalists abandoned the principle of “one nation, one state” and accepted the status of a region inside an integrating Europe. Drawing mainly, but not exclusively, on the examples of nationalists in Catalonia, Scotland, and Wales, this paper asks why this “flirting” with Europe took place and whether it is now over. The paper looks at the history of the concept of a “Europe of the Regions” and the changing meaning of this catchword since the Second World War. With the Maastricht Treaty, the dream seemed to have become true. But now we find a growing number of cases where nationalists have abandoned or are abandoning “Europe of the Regions” as their goal, replacing it with “Independence in Europe.” By analysing the origin and growth of this new concept, and the time and circumstances in which one concept has substituted the other, the author provides some explanatory factors for why the flirt with the “Europe of the Regions” may now be over for many nationalists of stateless nations in Western Europe. The article ends with some considerations on what kind of stateness “Independence in Europe” may include and whether and how it can be achieved.

**Keywords:** *Stateless nations, Europe of the regions, Independence in Europe*