

Edited by Adrian Pabst

# The Good Life in Common

Europe beyond the crisis  
of instrumental reason

*Reflections by Card. Scola and leading MEPs*



MARCIANUM PRESS

# ASSET

SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES SOCIETY ECONOMY THEOLOGY  
*Studies on plural Society*

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Marcianum Press S.r.l.  
Dorsoduro I - 30123 Venezia  
Tel. 041.2960608 - Fax 041.2419658  
marcianumpress@marcianum.it  
www.marcianumpress.it

*Impaginazione e grafica:* Linotipia Antoniana (Padova)

*Progetto e grafica di copertina:* Giuseppe Gonella

ISBN 978-88-6512-083-5

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# Presentation

This book is the outcome of a project launched by ASSET, the School for Advanced Studies on Society, Economy and Theology based at the Studium Generale Marcianum in Venice. Entitled ‘Beyond the Crisis: Political and Economic Reason in European Politics’, this project analyses the complex links between rationality, politics and economics in Europe following the crisis of 2008-9. One of the key objectives is to explore how to develop and foster reasonable practices in Europe’s economy and political system – with a special focus on debates and policy-making in the European Parliament.

Why reason? The current crisis is a crisis of ‘economic reason’. There was too much reliance on supposedly ‘rational expectations’ or ‘efficient markets’ and too little consideration for the intrinsic value of reason as a whole – not just the sort of instrumental rationality that dominated politics and the economy for much of the twentieth century. That is why Cardinal Angelo Scola has rightly remarked that “[t]he 2008 global financial crisis came after a long period of “slumbering reason””: agents, pressed by the aim of