

response, whether through unilateral action or international negotiation, is more at the centre of the question of the exercise of sovereignty.

However, policy harmonization often goes beyond co-operation and co-ordination and international pressures for it become most contentious when those pressures invade the structures of domestic social policy or threaten the way a country chooses to attempt to ameliorate regional inequities¹¹⁷.

¹¹⁷ Some of these concerns are examined in Sections 5.3 and 6.3.1 below.