

Key questions & readings¹ from the seminar session about *Democratic legitimacy in the EU*

- **13 March h 13-15** Working groups prepare class discussion
- **16 & 17 March h 11-13** Students presentations & class discussion

WG1. Forms of legitimacy & channels of legitimation in the EU

- 1) Why input & output legitimacy could be not enough for describing and assessing democracy at the EU level?
- 2) What can be learnt from the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis?
- 3) To what extent the “Better regulation” agenda is a way the European Commission has tried to enhance the legitimacy of EU policies?
- 4) Did Barroso & Juncker address different legitimation strategies?

Readings:

Schmidt, V. A. (2013), *Democracy and Legitimacy in the EU Revisited: Input, Output and ‘Throughput’, Political Studies, 61, pp. 2–22.*

Pansardi P. & Battegazzorre F. (2016), Which legitimacy for the European Union? An analysis of the President of the Commission’s State of the Union Addresses (SotEU), REScEU Working paper (<http://www.resceu.eu/publications/working-papers/which-legitimacy-for-the-european-union-an-analysis-of-the-president-of-the-commission%E2%80%99s-state-of-the-union-addresses-soteu.html>)

European Commission (2015), Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda (COM(2015) 215 final) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-better-regulation-for-better-results-an-eu-agenda_may2015_en.pdf)

WG2. Functional representation and CSOs

- 5) Is “collaborative governance” a way to strengthen the legitimacy of EU executive power? What do you think about this perspective?
- 6) Make a list of some “best practices” of EU collaborative governance. Do they provide added-value?...

Readings:

Heidbreder E. (2015), *Governance in the European Union: A Policy Analysis of the Attempts to Raise Legitimacy through Civil Society Participation, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice, 17:4, pp. 359-377.*

Smismans S. (2012) Interest Representation in the EU. Is there any? A top-down perspective, in Kröger S. & Friedrich D. (Eds.) *The Challenge of Democratic Representation in the EU*, Palgrave, pp. 209-225 (available on request)

Johansson H. (2012) Whom Do They Represent? Mixed Modes of Representation in EU-Based CSOs, in Kröger S. & Friedrich D. (Eds.) *The Challenge of Democratic Representation in the EU*, Palgrave, pp. 74-91 (available on request)

¹ In bold those readings circulated to the entire class, to be considered (by attending students) as part of the programme of the EU Politics course.

WG3. EU consultative bodies and the territorial dimension

- 7) Are “regions” all the same in the EU? Specify to what extent it is possible to describe the territorial dimension when looking at the EU polity.
- 8) Why the “political” & “consultative” roles can be differently structured? What does Piattoni mean by “political” vs. “consultative”? What about what she defines the “functional” role?...
- 9) As for influencing EU policy making, do you think that the CoR can be considered a lobbying tool? What do the Commission's open consultations tell us in this regard?

Readings:

Piattoni S. (2012) “The Committee of the Regions and the Upgrading of Subnational Territorial Representation”, in Kröger S. & Friedrich D. Eds.) The Challenge of Democratic Representation in the EU, Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 59-73.

Hönnige C. & Panke D. (2016) “Is anybody listening? The Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee and their quest for awareness”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23:4, pp. 624-642 (available on request)

Van Hecke M. et al. (2016), You’ll Never Lobby Alone. Explaining the Participation of Subnational Authorities in the European Commission’s Open Consultations, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 54: 6, pp. 1433–1448 (available on request)

WG4. The role of National Parliaments (NPs) in EU policy making

- 10) Did a sort of “deparlamentarization” occur over time because of the European integration process?
- 11) Nowadays, with the Lisbon Treaty, which possible roles can be played by NPs in order to enhance the democratic legitimacy of the EU?
- 12) Describe the Early Warning Mechanism (EWM).
- 13) What about party actors? Relate the question to the following consideration by Bellamy & Kröger: “*Without channels for reasonable disagreement on EU matters, the risk of unreasonable disagreement increases.*” (Bellamy & Kröger 2014: 453)

Readings:

Bellamy & Kröger S. (2014), Domesticating the Democratic Deficit? The Role of National Parliaments and Parties in the EU’s System of Governance, Parliamentary Affairs (2014) 67, pp. 437–457.

Raunio T. (2015) The Role of National Legislatures in EU Politics, in Cramme O. & Hobolt S.B. (Eds) *Democratic Politics in a EU under stress*, OUP, pp. 103-119 (available on request)

Auel K., Eisele O. & Kinski L. (2016), From constraining to catalysing dissensus? The impact of political contestation on parliamentary communication in EU affairs, *Comparative European Politics*, 14, pp. 154–176 (available on request)

WG5

- 14) Is parliamentary democracy lacking in the EU political system? If so, which are the main weak nodes?
- 15) Why are political parties at the EU level considered “umbrella organizations”?
- 16) What does it obstacle the development of a more likely transnational party system?
- 17) Are there elements of novelty in the *Spitzenkandidaten* procedure?

Readings:

- Gagatek W. (2016), Perspectives on the development of transnational party system in the European Union after the 2014 elections to the European Parliament, in Müller-Rommel F. & Casal Bértoa F. (Eds), *Party politics and democracy in Europe: essays in honour of Peter Mair*, Routledge, pp. 148-161.**
- Sigalas E. & Pollack J. (2012) Political parties at the European level: do they satisfy the condition of programmatic convergence?, in Kröger S. & Friedrich D. (Eds.) *The Challenge of Democratic Representation in the EU*, Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 23-40 (available on request)
- Schmitt H. et al. (2015) Does personalization increase turnout? *Spitzenkandidaten* in the 2014 European Parliament elections, *European Union Politics*, 16(3), pp. 347–368 (available on request)