Key questions & readings 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:

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:

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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:


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:


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 Spitzencandidaten procedure?

Readings: