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Θέμα: EU Legitimacy | Ralph Miliband Lecture | Open Access Politics & The Decline of the Mainstream

Legitimacy crisis

Policy Network



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Democratic Self-Government in Europe

Four Responses

In September 2012, the Eurobarometer found for the first time that more European citizens considered the EU to be undemocratic than democratic. Since then numerous commentators, academics and policymakers have made proposals for how the EU can be improved through institutional reforms to make the Union more democratically

accountable and popularly accepted.

In a widely debated Policy Network paper entitled '[Democratic Self-Government in Europe](#)', author Damian Chalmers took a unique approach. Chalmers argues that the EU should only govern when it has democratic authority within a member state. With Eurosceptic populist parties leading the polls in the [Netherlands](#) and performing well in [Finland](#), the [UK](#), [France](#) and elsewhere, finding answers to the question of how the EU can improve its democratic legitimacy and popular appeal will remain paramount as we approach the European Parliament elections in 2014.

Policy Network here sets out a series of four responses to Chalmers' proposals:



POLITICAL OBSERVATORY

The European Union and the nation state

by ANAND MENON

With national legislators involved in EU decision-making, not only would national and EU politics be organically linked, but national parliamentarians would find it harder to criticize it for the sake of populist appeal.

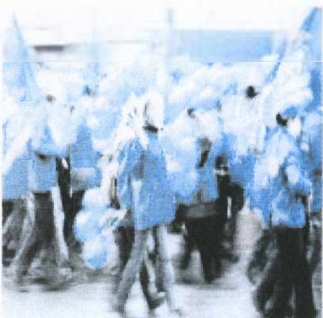


POLITICAL OBSERVATORY

Killing the EU rather than quitting it

by OLIVIER ROZENBERG

We have known since Bagehot that democracy through parliaments is about discussions rather than decisions. Parliaments are essential to any democracy because they question, scrutinize and criticize.



POLITICAL OBSERVATORY

Being part of the club

by PAUL CRAIG

It is axiomatic that states join voluntarily and do so because they believe that cost of the autonomy foregone is worth the benefits of being part of the club. A necessary corollary is that no individual Member State is going to like all that the EU does.



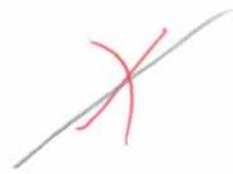


POLITICAL OBSERVATORY

Renationalisation vs. Europeanisation

by THIERRY CHOPIN

Either European leaders respond to criticisms that the EU lacks legitimacy or they risk that EU citizens will retreat to national affiliations, which they feel constitute the only safeguard of their political rights.



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New Articles

Open access politics

by THEO BERTRAM

With falling party memberships and a narrowing gene-pool of candidates, parties need to open up. Supporters should be able to sign up and vote online just as easily as they are able to buy something on Amazon.

The decline of mainstream dominance

by SYLVIA KRITZINGER & EVA

ZEGLOVITS

While the result of the Austrian election means the incumbent grand coalition will likely continue, the growing vote share for smaller parties may lead to a 'political earthquake' in future elections.

[Read more](#) →

Upcoming Events

Social democracy and the nation after the crash

17 October 2013, London

LSE Ralph Miliband Lecture

Andrew Gamble

Professor and head of the politics department

The insider-outsider dilemma: A stranglehold on social democracy?

18 November 2013, London

Presentation

David Rueda

at the University of Cambridge

Professor of comparative politics, Oxford
University

Chair

Anne Phillips

Graham Wallas professor of political science,
London School of Economics

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