

ABSTRACTS

Armin Schäfer

The democratic limit of output-oriented legitimacy

In recent years, the thesis has been presented that, given output-oriented legitimacy, the European Union does not exhibit a democratic deficit. Rather, tasks and competencies are shifted to the supranational level in order to enhance the ability of the political system to solve problems. Institutions that are not directly democratically legitimated allow for Pareto improvements, where this is otherwise neither achieved by the market nor in negotiation processes. This article criticises this thesis and demonstrates that the democratic deficit of the EU lies in the de-politicisation of politics. The delegation of decisions is only unproblematic when the point of departure can be recognised as fair, actors have no interest in relative gain, the reach of delegated decisions is able to be contained and decisions in cases of shifts in the majority remain reversible. In the EU these conditions are frequently not met. Where decisions are controversial, procedures must be found that ensure an appropriate representation of diverse interests.

Daniela Kietz und Andreas Maurer

The Treaty of Prüm: Tendencies of deepening and fragmentation in European Justice and Home Affairs

The Treaty of Prüm, negotiated between seven EU member states, is an initiative to deepen the still sluggishly proceeding police cooperation in the European Union. Like Schengen cooperation, it concerns a kind of enhanced cooperation – a pilot project – outside of the EU-treaty framework. In contrast to Schengen, the treaty raises the highly charged questions of whether it impedes the goal stipulated in the EU-treaty of establishing a unified, EU-wide area of freedom, security and justice, thereby fragmenting this already strongly segmented political field, and how, given previous experiences with Schengen, parliamentary control over such intergovernmental projects can be assured.

Timm Beichelt

European Studies in political science: What can and should it achieve?

The author grants European Studies a specific function in the scholarly and educational realm, namely the production and dissemination of familiarity with the topic of European integration. In addition, a distinction is made between European Studies, which is generally multi-perspective and multi-disciplinary, and on the other side the more specialised, mono-disciplinary EU research. While EU research is required for analysing the increasingly complex politics in the multilevel system of the EU, European Studies is required for the classification and interpretation of specialised knowledge. European Studies therefore forms an important connection between diverse academic communities as well as among the political public at large.

Helga Trüpel und Jan Seifert

New approaches to EU own resources

In contrast to previous multi-year budgets, the Financial Perspective 2007-2013 envisions an oversight by the Commission in 2008/2009. A white paper will review the previous budget implementation and orientation and also submit proposals for how new approaches to the calculation of own resources can be introduced by 2013 at the latest. After a brief look at the complex current situation, the necessity of pinning revenues to expenditures is explained, and six criteria

for the reform of own resources are presented. On the further path of negotiation toward own resources reform, the positions of key member states are critical. Building upon the interests and current contributions of these member states, three models and their redistributive effects are presented and explained. The first model tends almost exclusively toward financing the EU through national budgets (gross national income) while the second model draws funds mainly from resource consumption. The final model, most preferred by the authors, is financed primarily through the first percentage point of the value-added tax.

Jo Leinen

European Parties: Toward a new future

In the member states of the European Union, the competition between parties represents an important structural feature of democracy. At the European level, the existence of parties and the inherent competition of ideas and their implementation are still largely underdeveloped. The reason for this lay above all in the structures of the EU and the difficulties of the European parties in establishing common positions and nominating common candidates. In order to strengthen European parties and place them in a position to realise their important role in European democracy, a European Party Statute needs to be promoted. Furthermore, the institutional reforms envisioned in the constitution are necessary. Finally, the parties must continue to develop internally and take advantage of all existing possibilities to become powerful actors on the European stage.

Übersetzung aus dem Deutschen von William L. Metzger.

Neues aus der Integrationsforschung



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