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The European Union: What Institutional Model for Which Type of Democracy?

Federalism, Compound Democracy, Multi-Level Governance
and Directly Deliberative Polyarchy Compared

University of Innsbruck, 22-23 September 2011

Room: VI, Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät – Karl-Rahner-Platz 3

University of Innsbruck – Department of Political Science

University of Trento – School for International Studies

EURAC – European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano

The institutional nature of the European Union is frequently discussed by reference to existing national models but, as they are normally found wanting, hybrids and 'neither-nor' formats are normally proposed (e.g., federation-confederation, neither an international organization nor a supranational state, etc.). There are, however, other institutional models that put the dynamic tensions that characterize the Union at the core of their reflection and that might constitute better points of departure for thinking about the nature of the Union's institutional architecture, such as federalism (in its more recent connotation as 'federalist dialogues' or 'visions'), compound democracy, multi-level governance and directly deliberative polyarchy.

In recent times, the normative debate on EU democracy has flared up. After a first wave of studies trying to assess which existing institutional model the Union was progressively embodying, the debate has recently veered in a more analytical direction and has produced a reassessment of theoretical concepts like participation, deliberation, accountability, and representation. This conference tries to bring these two strands of reflection together by discussing thoroughly models which have not received as much attention as the more conventional ones, perhaps for their particularly innovative nature, and assessing their democratic temper.

Each of these models foreshadows an institutional architecture that promises to solve in innovative ways the tensions inherent in a complex polity like the European Union. But are these solutions legitimate and democratic? To answer this question, the conference is structured around four presentations (theses) by eminent scholars, who have theorized precisely these novel institutional models and who will be asked to make the best case for their proposed solution, and four critical commentaries (antitheses) by an equal number of scholars, who will be asked to discuss and find fault with these arguments (and propose alternative approaches). These paired presentations will be premised by an introduction and a final presentation that will try to assess comparatively the strengths of these debates.

A thorough assessment and discussion of these models would represent an "authoritative statement" that should be of interest to all students of European integration and it should also prompt further reflection. The contributions to the conference will then form the basis for an edited volume.

Please register at: politikwissenschaft@uibk.ac.at

Programme

September 22, 2011

14:00 Greetings from the Vice-Rector of the University of Innsbruck, Prof. Tilmann Märk
Greetings from the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Prof. Ferdinand Karlhofer

Chair: Prof. Ferdinand Karlhofer, University of Innsbruck

14:30 **Introduction: Institutional Models for EU Democracy**
Prof. Simona Piattoni, University of Innsbruck

15:00 **Discussion: Which Institutional Model? Which Democracy?**
Prof. Johannes Pollak, Institute for Advanced Studies & Webster University, Vienna

15:30 Coffee Break

Chair: Prof. Simona Piattoni, University of Innsbruck

16:00 **Thesis 1: Federalist Visions**
Prof. Kalypto Nicolaidis, University of Oxford

16:30 **Discussion 1: Which institutional balance in the EU?**
Prof. Francesco Palermo, EURAC (Bolzano/Bozen) and University of Verona

17:00 Open discussion
(Dinner – only by invitation)

September 23, 2011

Chair: Dr. Fritz Staudigl, Head of the Office of External Relations, Land Tirol

09:00 **Thesis 2: Compound Democracy**
Prof. Sergio Fabbrini, LUISS

09:30 **Discussion 2: Which participation in the EU?**
Prof. Michael Burgess, University of Kent

10:30 Coffee break

Chair: Dr. Doris Dialer, European Parliament and University of Innsbruck

11:00 **Thesis 3: Multi-Level Governance**
Prof. Arthur Benz, University of Darmstadt

11:30 **Discussion 3: Which representation in the EU?**
Dr. Sandra Kröger, University of Bremen

12:00 Open Discussion
12:30 Lunch

Chair: Prof. Gilg Seeber, University of Innsbruck

14:00 **Thesis 4: The institutional order of justification**
Prof. Jürgen Neyer, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

14:30 **Discussion 4: Which accountability in the EU?**
Prof. Deirdre Curtin, Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 **Conclusion: Institutional Architectures Compared**
Prof. Markus Jachtenfuchs, Hertie School of Governance

16:00 Final discussion
(Departure)