

squaring the legitimacy conundrum with representative democracy

Participation of European Civil Society in the EU political system

TEU:

Democratic Principles

Art. 10: The Union shall be founded on **representative democracy**. Citizens are directly represented at EU level in the EP

Art. 11: The institutions shall, by appropriate means:

- ..give *citizens* and *representative associations* the opportunity to make known & publicly exchange views in all areas of Union action
- ..maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with their *representative associations* and civil society.
- ..carry out broad *consultations with parties concerned* in order to ensure that Union action is coherent & transparent.

(ECI)

MLG, EU style:

public control/justification/deliberation/contestation/political equality?
(Piattoni 2011; Rose 2013; Lord 2014)

- diffuse power, inter-institutional bargaining

- COMM:

- principles, functional

- Council:

- executive governments, territorial

- EP:

- parties fuse functional & territorial interests, but..groups?

- trilogues: secluded

- horizontal accountability

Citizens

- Weak vertical accountability to EP
 - ACTA: high salience=EP assertion; mobilisation in MS
- ECI:
 - *agenda-sets* contentious & lesser-known causes
 - introduces new players
 - campaigning & tactical use expands public space
 - justification & linkage to EP

Interest organisations

- teeming & pluralised population
 - SqdM, *Mundo-B*: twin track
- Captivators?
- Captives?
 - funding
 - systemic insiders
 - chameleons
 - regulatory:
 - concentrated costs & diffuse benefits
 - heterogeneous capital

A Voice & the Vote

- *Who elected Oxfam?*
 - value based: principles
 - policy relevance/forums
- groups etc.: a source of
 - symbolic representation
 - deliberation in policy forums
 - horizontal accountability: 'unofficial opposition'
 - activist Ombudsman
- *throughput* legitimacy strong: rational argument persuasive
- inter-institutional bargaining needs public contestation

The EP: still for diffuse interests?

No

- Trilogues
 - drawn into diplomacy
 - favour large parties
- committee pluralisation
- loosened ties to COMM
- Information deficit for CoD

Yes: legitimacy seeking

- draws Council into politics
- oversight mechanisms
- 2 way street
- high salience
- major upgrades in 2012/13
- dexterity
- networks strong