

EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

THE EU IS NOT A STATE
NOR AN ORGANISATION OF STATES
BUT RATHER FORMS A
UNION OF STATES AND CITIZENS
WHICH INCREASINGLY FUNCTIONS AS A
EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

BLOGS, TWEETS & TREATISES

Jaap Hoeksma



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ISBN: 978-94-6240-531-8 (softcover/paperback)

ISBN: 978-94-6240-532-5 (.epub)

Published by:

Wolf Legal Publishers

Talent Square 13

5038 LX Tilburg

The Netherlands

info@wolfpublishers.nl

<http://www.wolfpublishers.com>

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EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

Blogs, Tweets & Treatises

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Table of Contents

1	European Democracy – Executive Summary	1
2	European Democracy in eight Tweets	3
3	Ever Closer Union in Blogs, Tweets and Treatises	5
4	The Peace Palace Library Blogs on Brexit	7
5	European Democracy a Decade after Lisbon	45
6	From Common Market to Common Democracy	65
	Introduction	65
	Towards stalemate	70
	A citizens' narrative of the EU	80
	The theory of democratic integration	109
	Conclusion	125
	Epilogue: Applying Theory to Practice	128
7	The Theory of Democratic Integration	133
	References	159

1

European democracy

Executive summary

The theory of democratic Integration (TDI) is inspired by the treaties of Maastricht (1992) & Lisbon (2007) and constitutes a political philosophy for the EU as a European democracy. The novelty of 'Maastricht' lies in the introduction of citizenship, while 'Lisbon' construes the EU as a democracy without turning the Union into a state. The EU may therefore be described in plain and simple terms as a Union of States and Citizens, which increasingly functions as a European democracy.

The hallmark of the TDI is that it replaces the traditional paradigm of states in the study of the EU with the civilian perspective of democracy and fundamental rights. From this angle, it is obvious that, if two or more democratic states agree to share the exercise of sovereignty in a number of fields with a view to attain common goals, their organisation should be democratic too. This approach sheds fresh light on the 1973 Declaration of Copenhagen, in which the European Council defined the then Communities as an 'organisation of democratic states'. As there is no point in governing an organisation of democratic states in an undemocratic manner, this declaration may be regarded in hindsight as the start of the democratisation of Europe.

This view is corroborated by the fact that the first direct elections for the European Parliament were held in 1979 and that the Single Act of 1987 abolished the right of veto in a number of fields. The introduction of EU citizenship in 1992 was indispensable for giving the Union democratic legitimacy. After all, no democracy without citizens. The Lisbon Treaty forms a new stage in the emancipation of the citizens by giving them a bill of rights on the one hand and by constructing the EU as a representative democracy on the other hand. As the EU is currently evolving from an organisation of democratic states to a transnational democracy, it has many deficiencies. The most obvious shortcoming lies in the election of the members of the European Parliament. While the Lisbon Treaty prescribes, that the citizens of the Union are represented in the EP, the members are still chosen as representatives of the nationals of the participating states. Imperfect as it may be at the moment, the EU has the potential of becoming the first democratic regional organisation in the world.

2

European democracy in eight tweets

- 1 Academics are wrong by insisting that #EU can't be defined! Theory of Democratic Integration describes EU as Union of States & Citizens which increasingly works as #europeandemocracy As transnational democracy EU needs full citizens participation and public debate!
- 2 The primary principle of #transnationaldemocracy holds that, if two or more democratic states agree to share the exercise of sovereignty in a number of fields with a view to attain common goals, the organisation they establish for this purpose should be democratic too.
- 3 The Theory of Democratic Integration (TDI) creates the most significant breakthrough in political theory since the 17th century by replacing the diplomatic paradigm of states in the study of the EU with the civic perspective of democracy and fundamental rights.
- 4 Citizens' Definition EU: From the civilian perspective, the #EU may be defined as a Union of States and Citizens, in which the citizens are entitled to participate both in the national democracies of their countries and in the common democracy of the Union.
- 5 #Europeandemocracy: In order to form a transnational democratic polity, the EU should not only require its member states to meet stringent standards of democracy and the rule of law, but should also comply with these criteria of its own.
- 6 Evolution #EU from org of democratic states to transnational democracy:
1973: Declaration Eur Identity.
1979: First Direct Elections EP.
1987: QMV.
1992: EU Citizenship.
2000: Charter EU Rights.
2007: Democratic Principles Title II Lisbon Treaty.
20XX: Adaptation Rules EP-elect to TEU.

7 Dependent on outcome Brexit EU can be defined in 27/8 words as follows:

The EU (European Union) is neither a state nor an organization of states, but rather constitutes a Union of States and Citizens, which increasingly functions as a European democracy.

8 The Soul of Europe lies in her Democracies.

European Democracy is a new concept, which requires an own and distinct political philosophy. The Theory of Democratic Integration informs the functioning of the EU as a European democracy. It introduces the primary principle of transnational democracy, which holds that, if two or more democratic states agree to share the exercise of sovereignty in a number of fields with a view to attain common goals, their organisation should be democratic too.

The Theory of Democratic Integration (TDI) contains the most significant breakthrough in political theory since the 17th century as it substitutes the civic perspective of democracy and human rights in the study of the EU for the Westphalian paradigm of states. While the process of European integration has started originally as a co-operation between states, it has evolved over the decades towards an unprecedented Union of States and Citizens. Since the decisions taken by the EU on a daily basis are affecting the lives of over 400 million citizens, the study of the EU can no longer be conducted on the basis of the perspective of states.

The academic achievement of the new theory is that it breaks the deadlock in the debate about the Nature of the EU and the Future of Europe. Though political scientists and philosophers of law continue to argue that the European Union cannot be defined, the TDI portrays the EU in plain and simple terms as a *Union of States and Citizens, which increasingly functions as a European democracy*. While it is currently evolving from an organisation of democratic states to a transnational democracy, the aim of the EU is to become the first democratic regional organisation in the world.

The EU certainly constitutes a Union of States and Citizens.

Herman van Rompuy, First President of the European Council

I fully endorse the principle that, if two or more democratic states agree to share the exercise of sovereignty in a number of fields in order to attain common goals, their organisation should be democratic too.

Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President European Commission

You've squared the circle!

Neil Kinnock

