

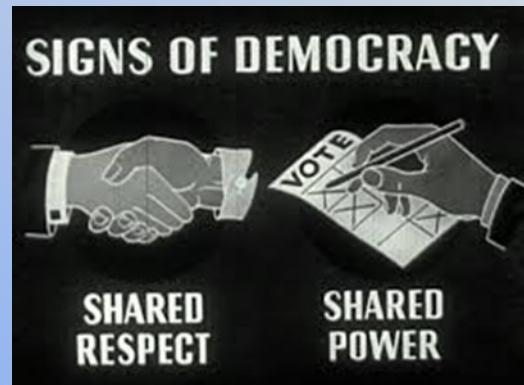
Democracy in Supranational Regimes



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Basic Perception

- **How do you define democracy?**
- **What are its main characteristics?**
- **To what extent do you, as citizens, expect to be involved in the regime of your country?**
- **What are the main elements ensuring a democratic regime in your country?**





Definition

1. **Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system...**
 3. **A state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges.**
 4. **Political or social equality; democratic spirit...(Dictionary.com).**
- **Government by the people; *especially* : rule of the majority.**
 - **A government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.**
 - **The common people especially when constituting the source of political authority**
 - **The absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges. (Merriam-Webster).**

Democracy in EU Treaties

EU treaties mention, among the EU's aims: democracy, the well-being of European peoples, and social welfare alongside economic development (Article 3(1) Treaty on the European Union (TEU), Article 9 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)).



Domestic vs. Supranational

What is the justification for a supranational regime? Why did your country join it?

Should there be a difference between the definition of democracy in a country and in a supranational regime?

If so – what would be the differences?



Who is 'the people' represented in the EU?

- **Weiler, Grimm (1995): European 'demos' (=people): value driven.**
- **Nicolaides (2013): demoi (=peoples). Democracy: A union of people who govern together but not as one.**
- **Scharpf (1997): 'just as playing together can create teams, living under a common government, and participating in common political processes, can create political identities.'**



‘Indirect involvement’ of the People

Who are the ‘players’ in your domestic democratic regime to which you delegate your democratic power?

Who are the ‘players’ in the supranational EU regime to which you delegate your democratic power?

Do you – as EU citizens – feel that there is a difference between your connection with your national and supranational delegates?

Does the connection of your national delegates with the supranational delegates compensates for that difference?



Does the subject matter?

Would you, as EU citizens, want to be involved in *any* decision making process?

What should be the criterion to distinguish issues where the citizens should be *more* involved?
(could your domestic model of democracy suggest any applicable indications?)





Thank You

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