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Hélène Gorny – 1143002

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Participatory Democracy in the European Union: An Evaluation of the European Citizens' Initiative

Abstract

This thesis evaluates the extent to which the European Union suffers from democratic deficit. Likewise, principally focusing on a newly launched participatory tool, namely the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), the study aims at assessing the potential role of such tool in effectively reducing this so-called democratic deficit.

The research shows that these accusations are broad, vague and therefore partly inaccurate. The development, in several key steps, of a multi-faceted discussion accordingly narrows down and specifies the actual issues addressed. Moreover, it provides a structured initial approach to assess the effectiveness of the ECI, ultimately facilitating the outlining of a comprehensive evaluative framework.