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“Progressing democratization of the European Union -

Acting in accordance with the principles of democracy stipulated in Article 6, paragraph 1 of the European Union treaty by the European Parliament in the European Union multi-level system?”

The European Parliament is the organ of the European Union which has the maximum degree of democratic legitimation at its disposal. The justification for this is that it is the only organ whose members are directly elected by the citizens of the European Union member states. The powers which have been granted to the European Parliament are not in accord with its central role however. The expansion of the co-determination procedure places the European Parliament in the position of a co-legislator, together with the Council and Commission of the European Union. At the same time however, the European Parliament is still not vested with a power of legislative initiative in the field of secondary Community law. What is the situation concerning the progressing of the principles of democracy established in Article 6, paragraph 1 of the European Union treaty when taking this into account?

The academic discourse on the problem of the existence of a democratic deficit in the European Union is comprehensive. The novel aspect of the thesis is that the principle of democracy is placed in more tangible terms by the method behind the interpretation of Article 6, paragraph 1 of the European Union Treaty and the recourse to the traditions of the constitution in the European Union member states. The question which is at the centre of this is therefore whether the powers vested in the European parliament and its position within the institutional structure justify a requirement of a reform as regards the democratic legitimation of the European Union. The thesis then concerns itself with the Treaty of Lisbon and examines whether and the extent to which the planned treaty will contribute to a reduction of the established reform requirements and a progression of democratisation with the European Union.

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