Launch of the RECON Online Working Paper Series

RECON has established an online working paper series for the publication of pre-print manuscripts on democracy and the democratisation of the political order in Europe.

The working paper series is interdisciplinary in character, but is especially aimed at political science, political theory, sociology, and law. It publishes work of theoretical, conceptual as well as of empirical character, and it also encourages submissions of policy-relevant analyses, including specific policy recommendations. The focus is on the study of democracy within the multilevel configuration that makes up the EU.

The series publishes work from the researchers involved in the project, but it is also open to submissions from other researchers working within the fields covered by RECON.

The first three papers in the series have been published. The first paper 'Europe in Transformation', by Erik O. Eriksen and John Erik Fossum is the framework paper for the RECON project. The second paper, by James Bohman offers a theory of democratisation for transnational polities. In the third paper, Christian Joerges claims that international trade law remains thin, and that it does not provide a framework for ensuring democratic legitimacy.

Erik O. Eriksen and John Erik Fossum
Europe in Transformation: How to Reconstitute Democracy?
RECON Online Working Paper 2007/01

James Bohman
Democratizing the Transnational Polity:
The European Union and the Presuppositions of Democracy
RECON Online Working Paper 2007/02

Christian Joerges
'Conflict of Laws as Constitutional Form:
Reflections on International Trade Law and
the Biotech Panel Report'
RECON Online Working Paper 2007/03

online **RE/CON** working paper series

Forthcoming papers:

Neil Walker, **Taking Constitutionalism Beyond The State**

John Erik Fossum, **Constitutional Patriotism: Canada and the European Union**

Sidney Tarrow, **Polanyi in Brussels: Why a European Civil Society Seems Possible and the Strange Way it May Happen**
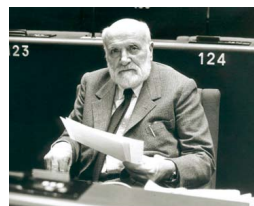
The papers are available in electronic format only, and can be downloaded in PDF format from RECON's website: www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/RECONWorkingPapers.html.

RECON Reports

The RECON Report Series is part of the established ARENA Report Series and is aimed at publishing collections of papers, such as conference and workshop proceedings. The reports are available electronically at www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/RECONReports.html, print versions can be ordered from ARENA.

RECON Report No 1
Altiero Spinelli:
From Ventotene to the
European Constitution
Agustín José Menéndez (ed.)

RECON Report No 2
The Interpretative Moment of European Journalism: The impact of media voice in the ratification process
Hans-Jörg Trenz, Maximilian Conrad and Guri Rosén

RECON Events

Since the launch of RECON in January, some of the work packages have held their kick-off workshops.

RECON Kick-off Conference
Oslo, 26-27 January 2007

ARENA hosted the project's kick-off conference in Oslo in January, where all researchers in the consortium met as a whole for the first time. The two-day conference addressed the main problems regarding supranational governance and democracy in Europe and presented the main themes of the project.

The first day of the conference was an open event that attracted some 160 people; researchers from Norwegian and European institutions, coordinators of other projects within the Sixth Framework Programme, as well as policy makers, practitioners, and representatives of civil society.

Audience at RECON's kick-off conference

Norwegian State Secretary Liv Monica Stubholt held an opening speech on 'Democracy in the Age of Globalisation'. This was followed by an introductory speech by RECON's scientific coordinator Erik O. Eriksen.

Keynote speeches were held by John Dryzek, one of the leading political scientists on democracy beyond the nation state, and James Bohman, prominent theorist in the field of normative political theory and cosmopolitanism. Hauke Brunkhorst and Rainer Forst commented on their speeches. After lunch, John Erik Fossum, RECON substitute coordinator chaired the sessions where the RECON work package leaders presented the project's research fields. The sessions included comments by Tanja Hitzel-Cassagnes and Philippe C. Schmitter, and were followed by a final discussion. Angela Liberatore from the European Commission gave a presentation at the opening of Day II on 'RECON in a Framework Programme perspective', which was followed by a session on project management, communication and dissemination, and then smaller, parallel project meetings.

Three of RECON's WP-leaders, from left: Ben Crum, Christopher Lord, and Yvonne Galligan

Workshop: Re-framing Transnational Governance
Florence, 9 March 2007

Under the heading 'Re-framing Transnational Governance' the first WP 9 workshop took place on 9 March 2007 at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. The workshop was organised by Christian Joerges from the Department of Law at the EUI, and the event was held in conjunction with a workshop of the University of Bremen coordinated project 'Transformation of the State' which took place on 8 March 2007. Researchers from universities in Birkbeck, Bremen, Chicago, Frankfurt, Hamburg, London, Mannheim, Oslo and the EUI participated at the workshop.

The overall objective of *WP 9 – Global Transnationalisation and Democratisation Compared* is to examine how globalisation and transnationalisation processes shape the conditions for democracy within and beyond Europe, and to compare the European case with certain particularly relevant non-European instances of democracy and democratisation.

The workshop was a preliminary exercise aimed at framing the future work of WP 9. The first of three sessions dealt with meta-discourses on transnational law and was aimed at mapping the current theoretical debate on transnational law. The second session dealt with transnational product and process regulation and provided an opportunity for exploring developments within specific areas of transnational market regula-

tion, also with a focus on the World Trade Organization (WTO). In the third session, John Erik Fossum linked the work of WP 9 to *WP 2 - Constitutional Politics*, and focused on comparative aspects of transnational democracy.

Workshop: Reconstituting Democracy from Below - New Approaches to Civil Society and the Public Sphere
Bremen, 17-19 May 2007

The first workshop in *WP 5 - Civil Society and the Public Sphere* took place from 17 to 19 May 2007

Prof. Sidney Tarrow at the Bremen workshop

at the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg in Delmenhorst close to Bremen. The workshop was organized by Ulrike Liebert (Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies, Bremen) and Hans-Jörg Trenz (ARENA, Oslo) and brought together some fifty researchers from across Europe, including Russia, and from the US.

Prof. Sidney Tarrow (Cornell University) opened with a keynote on the possibility of an European civil society in a neo-Polanyian theoretical perspective. This was followed by 22 paper presentations in four subsequent panels: (I) Reconstituting democracy from below: European experiences; (II) Constituting a European public sphere: Innovative approaches to media, communication and dis-

Erik Oddvar Eriksen, RECON coordinator and Angela Liberatore, European Commission

Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst

course analysis; (III) Civil society and democracy in Europe: Theoretical approaches and empirical methodologies; and (IV) Quantitative-qualitative methodology of media discourse analysis: Research training unit for national media analysts.

The workshop had three major objectives. First, to take stock of current and previous international research projects on both civil society and the public sphere (Europub, Civgov, Cinefogo, Connex, Emediate, EIF/Vienna, ConstEPS, ESF, and others). Second, the establishment of closer cooperation and exchange within the research group, and preparation of the Bremen Summer School (see box to the right). Third, to plan future cooperation with the subproject *WP 8 – Identity Formation and Enlargement.*

Co-leader WP 5, Ulrike Liebert and participants

Other events

Seminar

EU and Civil Society

Dept. of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, 7 May 2007

Presentations by Beate Kohler-Koch (MZES), Thomas Christiansen (EIPA), Lars Chr. Blichner (UiB) and John Erik Fossum (ARENA/UiB).

International Conference

Together Since 1957: From Rome to Berlin

Center for Political and Constitutional Studies, Madrid, 19-20 June 2007

Sections on the Lessons of History, Current Challenges and the Future of European Integration. Interventions by Piers Ludlow (LSE), Stefan Collignon (LSE), Jan Zielonka (Oxford), Julio Baquero Cruz (CEPC), Meltem Muftuler Bac (Sabanci) and others.

Upcoming workshops and events

For more information and full programme of the various workshops, see the 'Events' section on the project website. Participation is restricted at most events, but please consult the organisers or the website for further information.

Kick-off workshop WP 3
Brussels, 15-16 June 2007

RECON's *Work Package 3 - Representation and Institutional Make-up* holds its kick-off workshop in Brussels on 15-16 June. Keynote contributions are made by Jane Mansbridge (Harvard University) on 'A Selection Model of Political Representation' and Vivien Schmidt (Boston University) on 'Democracy in a Regional State'. The workshop is organised by Christopher Lord at the University of Reading.

For more information, please contact Christopher Lord (UoR) at: c.lord (at) reading.ac.uk

Summer School: Advanced Methods and Techniques in Media Analysis
Bremen, 22 July - 17 August 2007

The University of Bremen will organise and host a four-week Summer School on advanced methods and techniques in media analysis in July/August. The summer school is part of the subproject *WP 5 - Civil Society and the Public Sphere* in RECON and focuses on media discourse analysis using the software Atlas.ti.

The Bremen Summer School will provide a hands-on guided research training, including introduction to the methods used for data production and management, and how to link these to the analysis of theoretically relevant research questions. Participants will learn how to apply a theory-driven research agenda (code book) to their empirical research design for single-country media studies, as well as how to write up and present the results within a framework of systematic cross-country comparative research. Each participant will do original research on selected print media in one of fifteen languages (Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Swedish), and will produce a report with his/her research findings with the aim of publishing in the RECON report or online working paper series.

The Summer School is aimed at PhD students and experienced researchers who want to refresh and deepen their knowledge of media analysis. Please note that deadline for application has passed and that the Summer School is fully booked.

For more information, please contact Ulrike Liebert (Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies, University of Bremen) at: liebert (at) uni-bremen.de or Hans-Jörg Trenz (ARENA, University of Oslo) at: h.j.t (at) arena.uio.no

Gender Justice and Democracy in the EU
Belfast, 28-29 September 2007

The Centre for the Advancement of Women in Politics (CAWP) at Queen's University Belfast will host the first workshop of *WP 4 – Justice, Democracy and Gender.* Agnès Hubert, of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission, will open with a presentation on the evolution of gender equality in the EU since the Treaty of Rome. The workshop will bring together leading experts on democracy in the EU as well as scholars of gender politics, gender activists and officials across Europe. The main goal is to map the status of gender equality in current EU institutional arrangements and policies and to discuss how gender justice and democracy can best be fostered in the future.

For more information, please contact Sara Clavero (CAWP) at: s.clavero (at) qub.ac.uk

Parliamentary Control of European Security Politics
Frankfurt am Main, 7-9 December 2007

The Peace Research Institute Frankfurt organises the first workshop of *WP 6 – the Foreign and Security Dimension* in Frankfurt in December. The workshop addresses difficulties for national parliaments to effectively control and monitor European security politics and explores avenues for parliamentary control on a supranational and transnational level. The workshop will attract experts in the field, and among the practitioners and academics who have confirmed their participation are Hans Born (Center for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces), Giovanna Bono (Sub Committee on Security and Defense of the European Parliament), Michael Hilger (Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU), Andreas Maurer (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik Berlin), Hartwig Hummel (University of Düsseldorf) and Stefan Marschall (University of Düsseldorf).

For more information, please contact Wolfgang Wagner (PRIF) at: wwagner (at) hsfk.de

Publications and presentations by RECON partners

Publications

Julio Baquero Cruz: 'The Legacy of the Maastricht-Urteil and the Pluralist Movement', *EUI Working Paper*, RSCAS 2007/13.

Stefan Collignon: 'The Three Sources of Legitimacy for European Fiscal Policy', *International Political Science Review*, 28 (2): 155-84, 2007.

Stefan Collignon: 'Democratising Europe', *Social Europe, the journal of the European left*, 2 (3), 2007.

Stefan Collignon: 'Social models in Europe', *Eurointelligence*, April, 2007.

> *'In a modern and democratic Europe, citizens must be able to determine their fate by themselves and realise their political preferences through general elections'*
> Stefan Collignon
> *Social Europe*

Ben Crum: 'Party Stances in the Referendums on the EU Constitution: Causes and Consequences of Competition and Collusion', *European Union Politics*, 8 (1): 61-82, 2007.

Klaus Eder and Hans-Jörg Trenz: 'Prerequisites of Transnational Democracy and Mechanisms for Sustaining It: The Case of the European Union', in B. Kohler-Koch and B. Rittberger (eds) *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'Integration durch Entrechtlichung? Ein Zwischenruf', Discussion Paper 1/2007, Zentrum für Europäische Rechtspolitik (ZERP), Bremen.

Christian Joerges, Beate Braams and Michelle Everson: 'Die Europäische Wende zu "Neuen Formen des Regierensmodes of governance" - Rechts-probleme eines politischen Konzepts', *TranState Arbeitspapiere 17*.

Christian Joerges: 'Reconceptualizing the Supremacy of European Law: A Plea for a Supranational Conflict of Laws', in B. Kohler Koch and B. Rittberger (eds) *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

> *'Deliberative supranationalism strives for a conceptualization of the unitas in diversitas formula'*
> Christian Joerges
> *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy*

Christian Joerges: 'What is Left of the European Economic Constitution?', in W. Matiaske, H. Brunkhorst, G. Grözinger and M. Neves (eds) *The European Union as a Model for the Development of Mercosur?* Rainer Hampp Verlag, 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'Europarecht als ein Kollisionsrecht neuen Typs: Wie eine europäische unitas in pluralitate verfasst werden kann', in M. Führ, R. Wahl and P. von Wilmowsky (eds) *Umweltrecht und Umweltwissenschaft. Festschrift für Eckard Rehbinder*, Erich Schmidt Verlag, 2007.

Christopher Lord: 'Parliamentary Representation in a Decentered Polity' in B. Kohler-Koch and B. Rittberger (eds) *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

Zdzisław Mach: 'Constructing Identities in a Post-Communist Society: Ethnic, National, and European', in D. F. Bryceson, J. Oakley and J. Webber (eds) *Identity and Networks: Fashioning Gender and Ethnicity Across Cultures*, Berghahn Books, 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'European democracy between two ages', in C. Barnard (ed.) *Rethinking the Fundamentals of EU Law in the Light of the Constitutional Debate*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'Comparing Constitutional Change in the EU and the US', in A. Menon and M. Schain (eds) *Comparative Federalism: The European Union and the United States in Comparative Perspective*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Rainer Schmalz-Bruns: 'The Euro-Polity in Perspective: Some Normative Lessons from Deliberative Democracy', in B. Kohler-Koch and B. Rittberger (eds) *Debating the Democratic Legitimacy of the European Union*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

Hans-Jörg Trenz: 'Verfassung ohne Integration in Europa? Auf der Suche nach einem sozialen Konstituenten transnationaler Integrationsprozesse', in K.-S. Rehberg (ed.) *Die Natur der Gesellschaft*, Campus, 2007.

Wolfgang Wagner: 'Die Außenpolitik der Europäischen Union', in G. Hellmann, S. Schmidt and R. Wolf (eds) *Handbuch zur deutschen Außenpolitik*, VS Verlag, 2007.

Conferences and lectures

Svetlozar Andreev: 'Europeanization from Below: Civil Society Monitoring the Progress of Bulgaria's Preparedness for Accession into the EU'. Presentation at the SAIS - Johns Hopkins University conference 'Becoming Good Europeans?: The New Member States in the European Union', Washington DC, 12-14 April 2007.

Sara Clavero: 'Gender Justice and Democracy in the EU'. Presentation to the annual meeting of the European network of women studies, ATHENA, Budapest, 1-3 June 2007.

Ben Crum: 'Connecting National and Supranational Democracy: Lessons from the Making of the EU Constitutional Treaty'. Presentation at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, 19 May 2007.

Ben Crum, Saskia Hollander and Stijn van Kessel: 'Why there is (also) No Domestic Public Opinion on Europe: Three Case-Studies from The Netherlands'. Presentation at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, 17 May 2007.

Ulrike Ehling and Jürgen Neyer: 'Good Governance in der internationalen Handelspolitik. Macht, Recht und Deliberation in der WTO'. Presentation at the workshop 'Gutes Regieren durch Deliberation und Entscheidungsverfahren', Bamberg, 9-10 February 2007.

Erik Oddvar Eriksen: 'The Unfinished Democratisation of Europe'. Presentation at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, Canada, 19 May 2007.

Erik Oddvar Eriksen and John Erik Fossum: 'Reconstituting Democracy in the EU'. Presentation at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, Canada, 19 May 2007.

John Erik Fossum: 'Why compare the European Union with Canada?'. Presentation at the conference 'Thirty years of Transatlantic Partnership, Canada, Québec, European Union', Brussels, 23 March 2007.

John Erik Fossum: 'Adieu to Constitutional Elitism?'. Presentation at the conference 'A Living Tree: The Legacy of 1982 in Canada's Political Evolution', Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, 25 May 2007.

John Erik Fossum: 'On the Prospects for a Viable Constitutional Patriotism in Complex Multinational Entities: Canada and the Euroepan Union Compared'. Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Assosiation, Saskatoon, 31 May 2007.

Wolfgang Wagner speaks in the plenary of the German parliament

Yvonne Galligan and Sara Clavero: 'Women's Substantive Representation in the Multi-Level Euro Polity: Towards a Framework for Analysis'. Presentation at the workshop 'What is going on in Political Representation? The Substantive Representation of Women', ECPR Joint Sessions, University of Helsinki 7-12 May 2007.

Maria Heller: 'European Public Sphere: East/West: Struggles for the freedom of expression'. Guest Lecture at the University of Bergen, 31 May 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'How the Rule of Law Might Survive the European Turn to Governance'. Contribution to the Third Annual Consortium Conference of the NewGov project, Florence, 31 May - 1 June 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'Unitas in pluralitate: Das Kollisionsrecht als Form der Konstitutionalisierung Europas', University of Bayreuth, 9 May 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'Judicialization and Transnational Governance: The Example of WTO Law and the GMO Dispute'. Contribution to the Conference on The Law/Politics Distinction in Contemporary Public Law Adjudication, New Europe College, Bucharest, 26-27 March 2007.

Christian Joerges: 'Re-Constitutionalising Transnational Governance Through Conflict of Laws: The Example of International Trade – An Outline'. Presentation at The New International Law Conference, Oslo, 15-18 March 2007.

Paweł Kubicki and Marcin Galent: 'Issues, Methods and Outcomes of Ethnological Studies on Cultural Diversity in Poland (with a special emphasis on the memory of Jewish communities and intercultural communication)'. Presentation at the conference 'Ethnological Understandings of Cultural Diversity in Central European Urban Spaces', Budapest, 29-30 March 2007.

Paweł Kubicki: 'National Image Setting: Tourism, Promotion', and 'Polish, Hungarian and European Identity'. Presentations at the Polish-Hungarian V4 Conference, Kraków, 27 March 2007.

Justine Lacroix: 'Euroscepticism in French Political Thought'. Presentation at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, 19 May 2007.

Zdzisław Mach: 'Social Construction of Other People's Culture - Reconstruction of Identity after Migration'. Presentation at the International Conference 'The Other - the Friend or the Enemy', Kraków, 16-17 January 2007.

Zdzisław Mach: 'Heritage, Remembering and Forgetting - The Case of German Culture in Poland'. Lecture at Lund University, 22 March 2007.

Zdzisław Mach: 'European Integration, European Identity and the Role of the Nation State in the Uniting Europe'. Presentation at the Regional celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties, Institute of Strategic Studies and Centre for European Studies, Kraków, 24 March 2007.
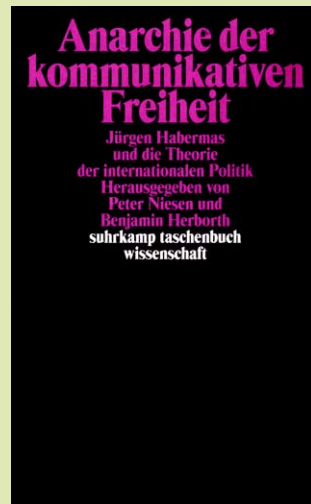
'The taken-for-granted assumption that we need to establish democratic procedures at the European level can be contested'

Klaus Eder & Hans-Jörg Trenz
Debating the Democratic Legitimacy

Zdzisław Mach and Dariusz Niedźwiedzki: 'Czy spo-łeczności lokalne się europeizują?' (Do local communities undergo Europeanization?). Presentation at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Science, Warszaw, 28 May 2007.

NEW BOOK: The Anarchy of Communicative Freedom

Anarchie der kommunikativen Freiheit
Jürgen Habermas und die Theorie der internationalen Politik

A new edited volume with contributions from several RECON partners and with extensive comments from Jürgen Habermas was recently published with Suhrkamp (in German). The book is edited by Peter Niesen and Benjamin Herborth (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University).

Anachie der kommunikative Freiheit. Jürgen Habermas und die Theorie der internationalen Politik, P. Niesen and B. Herborth (eds), Suhrkamp 2007.

Under conditions of globalisation it is no longer possible to conceive of international politics as only a power game between nation states. New mechanisms of coordination develop in various transnational policy areas, which favour communicative forms of problem-solving. This basic motive of Jürgen Habermas' discourse theory informs the central questions of this volume: How can the anarchic moment of communicative freedom be researched in international politics? Under which conditions can argumentation hold the upper hand in decision-making? And finally: How to prevent that new forms of governance undermine the established forms of democratic coordination?

Contributors to the volume, who are key researchers in RECON, are:

Nicole Deitelhoff: 'Was vom Tage übrig blieb. Inseln der Überzeugung im vermachteten Alltagsgeschäft internationalen Regierens'

Thomas Risse: 'Global Governance und kommunikatives Handeln'

Antje Wiener: 'Demokratischer Konstitutionalismus jenseits des Staates? Perspektiven auf die Umstrittenheit von Normen'

Rainer Forst: 'Dialektik der Moral. Grundlagen einer Diskurstheorie transnationaler Gerechtigkeit'

Rainer Schmalz-Bruns: 'An den Grenzen der Entstaatlichung. Bemerkungen zu Jürgen Habermas' Modell einer "Weltinnenpolitik ohne Weltregierung"'

Erik Oddvar Eriksen: 'Deliberation und demokratische Legitimität in der EU - Zwischen Konsens und Kompromiss'

Paul Magnette: 'Citizen Activism in Europe'. Lecture series at Boston University, 22 January 2007, City University of New York, 24 January 2007, and Catholic University of America, Washington, 26 January 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'La France et la crise constitutionnelle européenne'. Speech at the Roundtable 'France and the European Crisis', Fondation pour l'inno-vation politique et Confrontations Europe, Brussels, 6 February 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'L'espace public européen'. Presentation at symposium for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Grenoble, 7 March 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'Sur la crise du projet politique européen'. Presentation at symposium for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, Brussels, 18 April 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'L'Europe en crise de légitimité'. Presentation at symposium 'Convergence of European Democracies in the EU', UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, 15 May 2007.

Paul Magnette: 'La citoyenneté européenne et les principes du fédéral-

isme'. Presentation at symposium 'La citoyenneté européenne', Paris, 22 June 2007.

Meltem Muftuler-Bac: 'Turkey's Accession to the EU: Implications for the Future of European Integration'. Seminar at the Barcelona Institute for International Studies, Barcelona, 3 May 2007.

Meltem Muftuler-Bac: 'The Political Conditionality of the European Union on Turkey'. Presentation at the conference 'The End of the Democratic Movement', Sciences Po and Centre D'Etudes et de Recherces Internationales, Paris, 11-12 May 2007.

'The ultimate foundation for a deliberative account of the idea of democracy resides in a basic moral right to justification'

Rainer Schmalz-Bruns
Debating the Democratic Legitimacy

Claire O'Brien: 'Human Rights and Transnational Corporations: A Multi-level Governance Approach'. Presentation at the Law and Society Conference, Berlin, 25-28 July 2007.

Rainer Schmalz-Bruns: Presentation at the international conference 'Globale Gerechtigkeit und Demokratie', Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, 24-26 May 2007.

Hans-Jörg Trenz: 'Europeanisation of Public Communication: The

Question of Standards'. Presentation at the workshop 'Research on the European Public Sphere', Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna and the conference 'The Communicative Construction of Transnational Political Spaces and Times', Bielefeld, 27-29 April 2007.

Hans-Jörg Trenz: 'Civil Society: Between Participation, 'Representation and Discourse'. Presentation at the CINEFOGO workshop 'Civil Society and Social Movements', Trento 21-22 May 2007.

Wolfgang Wagner: 'Parliamentary Control of ESDP - How to Strengthen Accountability?'. Speech at the Assembly of the WEU/Interparliamentary Security and Defence Assembly, Berlin Conference on European Security and Defence Policy, German Bundestag, Berlin, 6-7 February 2007.

Wolfgang Wagner: 'The Democratic Deficit in the EU's Security and Defense Politics - Why Bother?'. Presentations at the University of California, Berkeley, 21 March 2007 and at the EUSA Tenth Biennial International Conference, Montreal, 18 May 2007.

NEW FROM THE CIDEL PROJECT

*The European Union and the Public Sphere
A Communicative Space in the Making?*
John Erik Fossum and Philip Schlesinger (eds), Routledge 2007

What are the prospects for a European public sphere? Is a uniform sphere needed, or are overlapping public spheres a more viable option? What do our findings tell us about the EU as a polity?

This book assesses the prospects for a European public sphere by using different models of the EU. It covers three main themes: how to theorise communicative practices in the EU; the working of general publics and the media; and the key EU institutions and their implications for the public sphere.
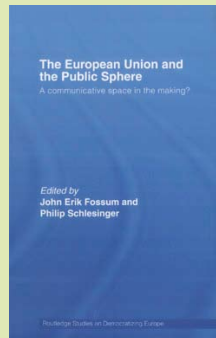
Fourth book in the series **Routledge Studies on Democratizing Europe** (series editors: Erik Oddvar Eriksen and John Erik Fossum). The series focuses on the prospects for a citizens' Europe by analysing the kind of order that is emerging in Europe.

More on the book and the series at: www.arena.uio.no/cidel/RoutledgeSeries.htm

Public Sphere and Civil Society? Tranformations of the European Union
John Erik Fossum, Philip Schlesinger and Geir Ove Kværk (eds), ARENA Report 2/07

This report focuses on the prospects for a viable European public sphere (or spheres), and takes stock of the status of the EU as a rights-based post-national Union by examining the nature and character of European civil society.

RECON seeks new partners

From mid-2008 RECON will include two more partner institutions in its consortium. The new partners will in particular be asked to contribute to the research within the research fields representation and institutional make-up and the political economy of the EU.

RECON has set aside a budget for two new partner institutions to participate from July 2008 through 2011. Full call texts will be published in November 2007, whereas the deadline for application will be mid-January 2008.

Representation and Institutional Make-up
One new partner will be asked to make a research proposal which complements existing projects in WP 3. These consist of: (i) a survey of how well different standards of democratic performance are met by different EU institutions; (ii) a study of different modes of inter-parliamentary cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament, and; (iii) studies of how institutions and politics of representation on EU matters are developing in 2004 accession states (the Czech Republic and Latvia).

The Political Economy of the European Union
One new partner will be asked to develop the 'second pillar' of WP 7; the elucidation of the relationship between social insurance mechanisms and democratic government. This should be done by means of: (i) spelling out the role played by social insurance mechanisms in forging a social identity, or we-feeling, which contributes to the actual and normative legitimacy of social institutions; (ii) empirical analysis and theoretical reconstruction of the constitutional discipline of socio-economic regulation and insurance mechanisms already existing at the EU level; and (iii) testing the coherence of the existing resource basis of the Union and its positive social-economic policies, on the one hand, and the socio-economic objectives required to reconstitute democracy at all levels of government on the other.

Research proposals should be conceptually innovative and methodologically rigorous, and should indicate how they address the RECON models. Please note that proposals can only be submitted through the European Commission's electronic submission system (EPSS) from the call launch in November.

Preliminary information is found on RECON's website, while more information will be posted in due time. For specific queries, please contact the respective work package leaders: Agustín José Menéndez (WP 7) or Christopher Lord (WP 3). For general questions on the calls, contact RECON project manager Geir Kværk.

New partner

The University of Bath was included in the RECON consortium as partner no. 19 from 1 April 2007. The RECON team in Bath is headed by Prof. Antje Wiener, and will contribute to RECON WP 6 - The Foreign and Security Dimension.

Open call: Postgraduate researcher University of León

One position as postgraduate researcher is available at the University of León. The researcher will dedicate his/her full time to RECON, and in particular to WP 7 - The Political Economy of the European Union, with Dr. Agustín José Menéndez as WP leader. The position is available for a period of up to 3 years. Deadline for application is 22 June 2007.

Read more at RECON's website.

New website

The RECON partner in Madrid, Center for Political and Constitutional Studies (CEPC) will soon launch a website which deals with the Europeanisation of national constitutions. This is one of the main axes of research of *WP 2 - The Constitutionalisation of the EU, the Europeanisation of National Constitutions, and Constitutionalism Compared.*

The new website will contain information about national constitutional provisions concerning the EU, as well as case law, parliamentary debates and a selected bibliography about the topic. With this website, CEPC will develop a powerful research tool for the analysis of the impact of the Europeanisation of national constitutions on the reconstitution of democracy in Europe.

RECON's research fields

WP 1 - Theoretical Framework

WP 2 - Constitutional Politics

WP 3 - Representation and Institutional Make-up

WP 4 - Justice, Democracy and Gender

WP 5 - Civil Society and the Public Sphere

WP 6 - The Foreign and Security Dimension

WP 7 - The Political Economy of the EU

WP 8 - Identity Formation and Enlargement

WP 9 - Global Transnationalisation and Democratisation Compared