

## Direct Democracy: A Remedy for Low Public Support in the European Union?



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## DIRECT DEMOCRACY: A REMEDY FOR LOW PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION?



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GRIN Verlag GmbH Mrz 2009, 2009. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x146x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: European Union, grade: 8/A, University of Twente, course: Democratic Dilemmas of European Governance, 15 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: The European Union has come under tremendous pressure in recent years. Political deadlocks and nearly failed treaty ratifications, finally culminating in an unprecedented crisis due to the no-votes on the Draft Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands, have made many seriously question the entire project of European integration. However, this has not been brought about by the latest failed referenda only. In fact, discussions about the feasibility of the process and its very nature have been occurring on and off. Therein, the notion of the democratic deficit has increasingly gained awareness. This is mainly about the way policy making in the EU which is all but transparent is conducted. Some critics regard the arguably restricted access of average citizens to the European legislator as decisive for the future of the Union at large. Indeed, the EU generally suffers from a lack of support by Europeans which is regularly revealed during EU-wide elections to the European Parliament. Low and always lower turnouts made many put the Union's significance into doubt since these elections are not alone characterised by low participation rates but even more so by a so-called second-order feature. That means European elections are supposed to be more or less national mid-term elections wherein citizens show their respective level of satisfaction with domestic incumbents. Thus, European issues or the Parliament are of little to no importance to the voter. In order to increase public support EU institutions...

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