Seminar offered by Prof. Alexander H. Trechsel

On September 12 2012, the German Constitutional Court will decide on the constitutionality of Germany’s plans to ratify the European Stability Mechanism. A court of a single EU Member State will therefore decide, indirectly, on the future of the Eurozone. One could argue that this is an example of the enormous difficulties the European polity has to face due to its incompletely federalized structures.

This summer, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti declared in an interview with the German magazine “Der Spiegel” that European governments should be given greater independence from their national parliaments. He said: “If governments allow themselves to be entirely bound to the decisions of their parliament, without protecting their own freedom to act, a break up of Europe would be a more probable outcome than deeper integration.” This remark sparked a vivid debate in Germany and Italy on the democratic foundations of the European Union. One could argue that this is an example of the enormous difficulties the European polity has to face due to its incompletely democratized structure.

Federalism and democracy are two fundamental sets of institutions of numerous political orders. Within the field of EU studies, both topics occupy an ever more central place. In the state of acute crisis that befalls Europe, a better understanding of federalism and democracy becomes indispensable. How “federal” is the EU really? How “democratic” is the EU? How harmonious or, to the contrary, antagonistic are the concepts of multi-level governance and multi-level democracy? What are the tensions affecting both representation and more direct forms of democratic participation at the EU level?

Through weekly readings, discussions and talks given by specialists we will try to answer these questions using a comparative approach to the phenomena of federalism and democracy in the EU. Participants in the seminar are expected to select one of the topics/concepts and take responsibility for the opening and the structuring of the discussion.

Please register with Adele Battistini (adele.battistini@eui.eu)
**Session 1 - October 2 2012**

**Introduction**


**Session 2 - October 9 2012**

**Conceptualizing Federalism: Classic Theories**


**Session 3 - October 16 2012**

**Conceptualizing Federalism: Modern Theories**


**Session 4 - October 23 2012**

**Federalism and the EU (I)**


Session 5 - November 6 2012

Federalism and the EU (II)


Session 6 - November 13 2012

Democracy and the EU (I)


Session 7 - November 20 2012

Democracy and the EU (II)

• Zweifel, Thomas D., 2002. "...Who is without sin cast the first stone: the EU's democratic deficit in comparison", Journal of European Public Policy, 9(5); pp. 812-840.
• Notre Europe, 2006. "Politics: The Right or the Wrong Sort of Medicine for the EU? Two Papers by Simon Hix and Stefano Bartolini".

Session 8 - November 27 2012

Current Tensions with Representation, Legitimacy and Accountability

• Bellamy, Richard, 2010. "Democracy without democracy? Can the EU's democratic 'outputs' be separated from the democratic 'inputs' provided by competitive parties and majority rule?" Journal of European Public Policy, 17(1): 2-19.

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**Session 9 - December 4 2012**

**Current Tensions with Participation**

• Papadopoulos, Yannis, 2005. “Implementing (and radicalising) art. 47.4 of the Constitution: is the addition of some (semi-) direct democracy to the nascent consociational European federation just Swiss folklore?”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 12:3: 448-467.

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**Session 10 - December 11 2012**

**Conclusions**