

How is the political practice of lobbying being legitimized and what can these ways of legitimization tell us about how the conception of democratic legitimacy is changing? In particular, this work tries to demonstrate and analyse the double nature of the ways in which lobbying is being legitimized on the example of public debates on lobbying regulation in the Czech Republic and France: on the one hand, the use of discourses of participation of civil society, proximity, and stakeholder involvement shows that discourses of democratization of policy processes and decision-making processes have strong relevance in contemporary public debate in both countries studied. On the other hand, connecting these discourses to the practice of lobbying in turn reshapes the meaning of participation, stakeholder involvement and proximity in a way that puts limits to the understanding of these discourses of democratization