

The democratic deficit of the European Union

The European Parliament in the legislative process of the European Union – in comparison with the position of the Bundestag

This thesis examines the democratic deficit of the European Union based on the comparison of the position of the European Parliament in the legislative process of the European Union and the Bundestag in German legislative process. I chose the comparison with the Bundestag because out of all the Member States, the German political system and its legislative process resembles the one of the European Union the most. The purpose of this thesis is to determine whether and to what extent, taking into consideration the strengthening of the European Parliament in recent years, we can still discuss the democratic deficit of the European Union, when the European Union citizens and their elected representatives were excluded from effective participation in the adoption of legislative acts.

The thesis is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the context of the democratic deficit of the European Union within the role of the European Parliament according to a number of leading authors on the issue of European integration.

The second part is devoted to the legislative process in Germany, focusing on the position and role of the Bundestag in different types of legislative process, as a legislative body to which the European Parliament is being compared to. This section does not neglect the link of the Bundestag to the Federal Government, which is similar to the European Commission in the European Union, being an important part of the legislative process.

The last and main part is devoted to the position of the European Parliament in the legislative process. The first half is devoted to the European Parliament's endeavour to strengthen its competence in relation to each amendment to Founding Treaties (in order of their conclusion) and what impact those changes had for our comparison. The second part deals with political practice in the European Parliament and its impact on the legislative process. In conclusion, a comparison of the European Parliament and the Bundestag on their

power to influence the legislative process and the resulting legislative acts and on the proposed changes, which should lead to more effective participation of European citizens on adopting law through their representatives, is made.