

Posudek oponenta na bakalářskou práci Kateřiny Husové: The Democratic Deficit and the European Identity as Questionable Issues in the European Union

The general structure of the paper is sound. The author clearly defines what the objective of the paper is and why it is relevant for political science and moreover points out the limitations of the paper. The aim of the paper is to provide a “comprehensible insight” into the question of the democratic legitimacy of the EU, and to “device instruments to increase accountability and legitimacy of the EU...” (p.4).

The author points out that there are a broad literature on the topic internationally, however lacking in the Czech context. It is good that the author considers what contribution the paper can make to political science, even if it might seem a bit odd that the paper is written in English if it is justified as a mean of overcoming a lack in the Czech scholarly discourse. Yet, the author motivates her decision to write in English and proves herself capable of writing academic English, which should be extolled.

The method used in the paper is described as a “theoretical analysis”, which is slightly misleading. What the author provides is an overview of the scholarly debate on the topic and to some extent analysis of theories; it is not the question of theoretical application or in any other sense the use of a theoretical body for analysing an empirical occurrence. Still, this is a minor criticism since the overview that the author presents is very well written. Regarding method, since the author presents an overview of scholarly literature she could have stated how she proceeded in order to be sure of including the most important works in the field.

The first part of the paper is devoted to the institutional side of the legitimacy crisis and the author provides a well-structured discussion that argues for the existence of a democratic deficit in the EU. The second chapter discusses theories that could provide a possibility of overcoming the legitimacy deficit of the EU. The last part of the paper is devoted to the question of the necessity of a common European identity and the author discusses the possibilities of norm based identity formation.

In the Conclusion the author mentions that “...the key question accompanying the entire issue of democracy rests in the character of the European project.” If anything is missing in the paper, that otherwise is very extensive, is it a more extensive discussion on the nature of European integration taking into account the scholarly dispute on the issue (and thus the main European integration theories).

Still, the paper approaches a relevant topic with a clearly defined aim, is well structured and well written. It is worth mentioning that the paper does not consist of any superfluous parts and that the author motivates why each part of the paper is included. It should be emphasised that the paper provides a good overview of the scholarly debate regarding EU's alleged democratic deficit. I recommend the grade excellent for this bachelor thesis.

Doporučuji bakalářskou práci k obhajobě s hodnocením výborně.

V Praze 9. června 2006

