Abstract: Coralie RAFFENNE

Multi-level Governance, Managerial Ideology and the Myth of Citizen Participation in the EU

The 2009 Treaty of Lisbon introduced through the back door institutional reforms that had been rejected in 2005 by the Dutch, French and Irish citizens as a result of national referenda. Paradoxically, amongst the most important aspects of these reforms is the European Citizens Initiative which is intended to allow greater citizen participation in the European decision making.

This paper will briefly describe this new participatory device and stress its limits and paradoxical implications for democracy at the EU level. It will also be argued that there has been a change in the main paradigm of government at European level, marking a break with the technocratic “community method”, towards more Anglo-American inspired model of public management, involving the instrumentalisation of stakeholder participation.

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