

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910220546703321
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Titolo	Citizens and the legitimacy of the European Union / / J. Thomassen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	The Hague : , : WRR, Scientific Council for Government Policy, , 2007
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (56 pages) : digital file(s)
Collana	Webpublicatie ; ; 19
Soggetti	Representative government and representation - European Union countries European Union countries Politics and government Public opinion Netherlands Relations European Union
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Legitimacy and the quality of democracy --3. Trust in political institutions -- 4. Performance and spill over effects -- 5. Political representation and accountability -- 6. Electoral democracy is not everything -- 7. In conclusion
Sommario/riassunto	"Recent developments, in particular the overwhelming majority voting rejecting the draft constitutional treaty in the referendum in 2005 have been a reason to question the traditional strong support of the Dutch population for European Unification. The very legitimacy of the European project all of a sudden seems to be questioned. Against this background this paper will try to make a systematic assessment of the legitimacy of the Union from a Dutch perspective. However, it should be obvious that such an assessment almost by definition asks for a European perspective. Therefore, whenever appropriate, we will work from a European or comparative perspective in order to come to a better understanding of the legitimacy problem from a purely Dutch perspective. In order to being able to make such an assessment we will first develop a conceptual framework and a number of evaluation criteria. In subsequent sections of the paper we will then assess the legitimacy of the Union according to each of these criteria." -- Introduction.