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Autore	Thomassen J. J. A.
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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.