

**Civil society,
democratic governance,
political participation:
European perspectives**

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Definition ?

- Political society / civil society
- Political society / market / civil society

- Three hands, three principles
- Law, contract, gift

- Encyclical letter & 38

Market

- Reasons of the success of the market economy
- Expansion of the market to cultural goods, artistic goods, religious goods...

Actors in civil society

- Dynamism of the civil society
- CSOs to compensate wrong doings of the State ? Or limits of the market ?
- CSOs as subcontractant of the State
- Privatization of the State ?
- Role of non for profit organizations

CSOs

CSOs should not fall under the critic :

- Buying them : clientelism
- Using them : subcontract
- Patronizing them : GONGOs, backed and controlled by the State

CSOs (2)

- Express and promote the civil society
- Express an alternative vision of society
Utopia, alternative visions and values
- Have to conquer the public space, to impose their agenda

Civil society

- Not a movement but a space
- Expanding
- With actors: CSOs, NGOs, universities, medias, religious bodies, local authorities?

Democracy

- Local level
- National level
- Regional level (EU, ASEAN...)
- Global level

Local level: democracy

- Need for participatory democracy

State level

- Crisis, decline
- Lost of competences for the local level on one hand, for the global level on the other hand

Regional level : EU

- EU institutions are not a state, nor a federation, nor merely just another international organization
- A new body ? How to explain ?
- Power based on the norms issued
- Very few integrated policies (agriculture, trade, money)

Democracy at regional level

- Indirect representation : national governments - council of ministers (or European council)
- Direct representation : European Parliament
- Rule of law : court of justice
- European Commission: not a government, right of initiative...
- Economic and Social Commission: consultative status, representatives of the civil society

Democracy at global level

- Global issues : global warming, financial stability, pandemics, natural resources, oil, rain forest, ...
- Global governance is not a government
- Global governance, with stakeholders
- Need for more democracy at global level
- Encyclical letter : & 67

Is there an international civil society ?

- Yes
- No

Democracy

- As a procedure
- As a culture
- Participation ?
- Decay of the State
- EU institutions
- Governance ?

■ Thank you