

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

CONNEX Seminar  
Cross-cutting activity – RG6

### **Democracy, rule of law, and soft modes of governance in the EU**

Roskilde University, Denmark  
10-11 November 2006

The recent expansion in the use of soft modes of governance in the European Union poses important questions about democracy and the rule of law in this supranational political system. The new modes and instruments of governance are an interesting phenomenon because of their flexibility and adaptability to rapidly changing (technical) conditions, because they are less demanding instruments in situations of policy disagreement, and because they can be used in areas where there is no willingness to formally transfer powers from the national level to the EU level. In that respect, soft modes of governance represent a set of renewed dynamics in the policy, politics and polity of the EU system.

However, the democratic quality of soft modes of governance and their relationship with the rule of law remains a disputed matter among scholars and among practitioners (policymakers and stakeholders). On the one hand, the new modes might be problematic since they bypass parliamentary procedures, lack judicial scrutiny, and might undermine judicial certainty. On the other hand, the potential participatory nature of soft modes of governance and their (semi-) voluntary character can be an important source of democratic renewal since they might constitute alternative sources of input legitimacy to the EU system. In a similar vein, the soft instruments may complement rather than replace traditional legal instruments and may therefore be unproblematic with respect to the rule of law principle.

This seminar wants to explore the democratic quality of soft modes of governance in Europe putting special attention to the above-mentioned aspects of input legitimacy and of the rule of law in the EU. The objective of the seminar is to gather outstanding theoretical and empirical work, and to advance knowledge in this specific area.

Members of the Connex and NewGov networks as well as other academics are invited to submit paper proposals. Abstracts of one page shall be submitted no later than May 15th, 2006 to Susana Borrás and Thomas Conzelmann, [borras@ruc.dk](mailto:borras@ruc.dk) and [conzelmann@pg.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:conzelmann@pg.tu-darmstadt.de) respectively. A maximum of 12 papers will be selected on the basis of their scientific excellence. Selection will be notified by June 15<sup>th</sup> 2006. Papers shall have a maximum of 9.000 words and shall be submitted no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Travel and accommodation costs for paper-givers will be fully covered. A limited number of participants without paper are welcomed to the seminar. However, limited resources do not allow covering the travel and accommodation costs of non-paper givers.