

## **European public space and network political communication from private use to political participation**

Since the process of European Constitution's sanction has been interrupted the public dialogue regarding the political participation of European citizens in the European integration process has been intensified. The notion of European public space that lies between political vision and metatheoretical notion, describes a transnational space of public dialogue where the issues to be regulated and the alternative decision's choices are expressed in political terms under the optic of antagonism and cooperation between member states.

The formation of such a space can't be instituted alone from above but it will rise from below through the interaction between individual or collective agents of social action. The use of Internet as a medium of political expression and communication is already wide spread especially between the younger citizens in the national political scene. Moreover in the European level the use of Internet is a very if not the most, important medium of communication between European citizens and collective political actors.

From a point of view of sociology of Law it is being asked whether the new social use of communication technology, within the current crisis of representational democracy may overcome or change the legal categorizations and limitations concerning political participation. For example, could we say that private space invades the public or that they merge? With what criteria the political freedom of persons and the constitutional rights of political parties will be preserved? Shouldn't the law set limits to "dangerous" political action, i.e. terrorism and with what criteria could political action be limited?

HELEN RETHIMIOTAKI