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Increasing public perceived legitimacy of the European Union through the integration of psychological insights into law

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INCREASING PUBLIC PERCEIVED LEGITIMACY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO LAW

Door Eva Grosfeld

1. High national identification and high identification with the EU are not mutually exclusive and can both be part of a person's social identity.
2. A strong national identity only negatively affects perceived EU legitimacy if identification with the EU is low.
3. To increase the perceived legitimacy of the EU, it is important to reduce perceived threat to national identity from the EU.
4. Alongside promoting EU identity and values, EU law must better accommodate most citizens' psychological need to protect their national identities and values to remain legitimate in their eyes.
5. Studying the content of identification provides additional insights into the effects of national identity on behaviour compared to only studying strength of identification.
6. It is naive to believe that citizens objectively assess information about the EU to judge the EU's legitimacy.
7. Dismissing citizens' concerns about losing national identity as irrational or immoral is irrational and immoral.
8. While the EU currently does not have a crisis of public legitimacy, its legitimacy is fragile due to growing polarization and identity politics.
9. Social psychological research can contribute to evidence-based EU law by informing lawmakers through insights on when, why, and how citizens think, feel, and behave as they do.

10. Increasingly, the strict boundaries between disciplines must be abandoned to address big societal questions.
11. As Spinoza said, I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, nor to hate them, but to understand them.
12. Especially because science is the most brain-racking work a person can do, scientists should let their minds rest frequently.