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European Union re-imagined**

geregideerd door Caitriona Carter, Martin Lawn

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Auteursrechtelijk beschermd materiaal

Introduction: Governing Europe's spaces: European Union re-imagined

Caitriona Carter, Richard Freeman and Martin Lawn

Introduction: re-imagining Europe and its Union

What do we imagine when we imagine Europe and the European Union (EU)? To what extent is our understanding of the EU – of its development, its policies and its working processes – shaped by unacknowledged assumptions about what Europe really is?

The image we have of Europe can be sustained in many ways. Take for example two quintessential images often evoked in general commentaries on both Europe and the EU – the organic Europe and the mechanical Europe.¹ The organic image of Europe/EU has it as a living thing – a growing together of countries with common roots. Tended by conscientious gardeners,