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RESEARCH ON THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND THEIR GENERAL SECRETARIAT

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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FOREWORD

The changes in the institutional structure of the EU brought about by the Lisbon treaty and recent developments in economic governance are offering scholars new fields of interest. In particular, the emergence of the European Council - and its President - as the institution driving integration further in times of crisis, the extension of co-decision and the continued quest for legitimacy through transparency are among the factors inviting scholars to cast new light on the role and functioning of the European Council and to re-assess the role and functioning of the Council of the European Union. The General Secretariat to both institutions has also increasingly been the object of scholarly enquiry.

The Library of the General Secretariat, a part of DG Communication and Document Management, wishes to contribute to and foster further research by offering scholars, libraries and civil society a structured bibliography of literature on the European Council, the Council of the European Union and their General Secretariat. The bibliography has been compiled by the Library on the basis of its own holdings and of targeted bibliographical research. It has greatly benefited from contributions by a variety of individual researchers and academic institutions throughout Europe and is constantly being updated with new contributions.

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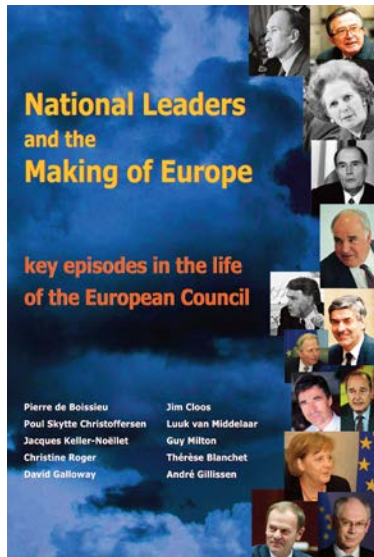
Reijo KEMPPINEN
Director-General
Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
Communication and Document Management

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THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

History of the European Council

Selected highlights



National leaders and the making of Europe : key episodes in the life of the European Council. London : John Harper Publishing, 2015

Shelfmark: EC.A 2015 boi

Since its creation in 1974, the European Council has evolved from an informal meeting of presidents and prime ministers to become a full EU institution in its own right and the Union's supreme political authority, driving its strategy and resolving its crises. Nothing of any significance in the Union can now be set in motion without its consent, nor accomplished without its support. This book tells the story of how this came about. The authors are serving or former senior EU civil servants who have all been closely involved in preparing and attending European Councils: Pierre de Boissieu, Jim Cloos, Poul Skytte Christoffersen, Luuk van Middelaar, Jacques Keller-Noëllet, Guy Milton, Christine Roger, Thérèse Blanchet, David Galloway and André Gillissen. Very few officials have such intimate access. The authors write as first-hand witnesses of events as they happened, offering new insights.



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The institutional vacuum and decisional blockage, characteristic of the European setting in the early 1970s, could only be overcome by mobilizing the highest sources of authority available in the European Community, namely the Heads of State and Government. "The European Council should really bring something new to the functioning of the institutions by strengthening the Union's decision-making capacity" (report submitted by Leo Tindemans, Prime Minister of Belgium, to the European Council in 1976). This volume analyses the relevance and the first twelve years of functioning of the European Council.



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Rédigée un an après la création du Conseil Européen, cette étude décrit sa genèse, son fonctionnement ainsi que la portée juridique et la nature de la décision instaurant le Conseil Européen. "Les véritables difficultés ont surgi le jour où le processus d'intégration devait toucher des domaines qui mettent directement en cause les souverainetés nationales, et qui portent sur des compétences nationales dont le transfert, même virtuel, sous l'autorité de Institutions communautaires n'était pas d'ores et déjà explicitement stipulé par les Traités. Même sans la crise économique et monétaire des années 70, l'absence de promoteur politique aurait pour le moins différé la solution de ces problèmes. Aujourd'hui il n'est plus contesté que désormais aucun véritable progrès ne peut être accompli sans une impulsion politique nouvelle et sans que soient développées des initiatives originales dans le sens de la création d'un centre de décision politique."

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European Council sessions

Selected highlights

COMPILATION



2015

Ludlow, Peter : *EuroComment compilation 2015*. Bruxelles, EuroComment, 2015.
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EuroComment contains analysis of every meeting of the European Council, the core of the European system of government. The author of the briefing notes is Peter Ludlow, founding director of CEPS in Brussels and executive president of the European Strategy Forum. Described by the Financial Times as 'Brussels' ultimate insider', Peter Ludlow has been closely involved with EU affairs for over 30 years.

source: <https://www.eurocomment.eu>



International summitry and global governance : the rise of the G7 and the European Council, 1974-1991. Abingdon : Routledge, 2014.

Shelfmark: EC.A 2014 mou

This book contains a detailed analysis of the emergence of regular and frequent heads of government meetings (summits), covering the period from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s. It aims to explore the origins of this feature of global governance in its historical context. Why did heads of Western governments decide to regularly meet up in the European Council and the Gx? What were they aiming at? How were these meetings run and what consequences did they have? How did other actors of international relations – states as well as non-state and/or transnational actors - react to this transformation? The authors investigate the rise of regular international summitry and its impact on international relations.

2016

Wessels, Wolfgang : *The European Council*. London : Palgrave-Macmillan, 2016.

Shelfmark: EC.C 2016 wes

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Alexandrova, Petya : *Analysis of agenda setting in the European Council, 2009-2014*. Brussels: EPRS, 2015.

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Role of the European Council

Selected highlights



Wessels, Wolfgang : *The European Council*. London : Palgrave-Macmillan, 2016.

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This systematic assessment of the European Council looks at its characteristics, leaders and output as well as its impact on EU supranational and intergovernmental dynamics. Taking account of historical and contemporary developments up to and beyond the Lisbon Treaty, it encourages in-depth understanding of this institution. Chapters are dedicated to political and procedural leadership, decision-making and consensus formation, economic governance and external action.



The European Council and European Governance : The Commanding Heights of the EU. Abingdon : Routledge, 2014.

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In recent years, the difficult ratification and implementation of the Lisbon Treaty as well as the several crises affecting Europe have revitalized the debate on the nature of the European polity and the balance of powers in Brussels. This book explains the redistribution of power in the post-Lisbon EU with a focus on the European Council.

Reform of institutions and the creation of new political functions at the top of the European Union have raised fresh questions about leadership and accountability. This book argues that the European Union exhibits a political order with hierarchies, mechanisms of domination and legitimating narratives. It combines approaches through events, processes and political structures, issues and the biographical trajectories of actors and explores how the founding compromise of European integration between sovereignty and supranationality is affected by the evolving nature of this new European political model which aims to combine cooperation and integration.



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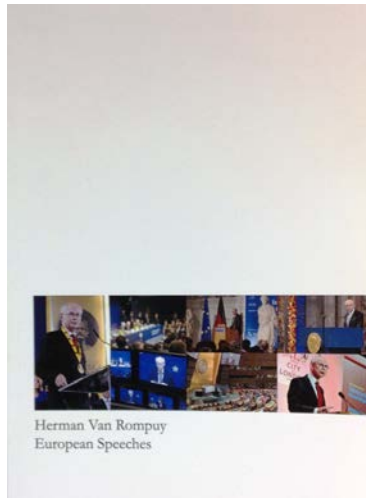
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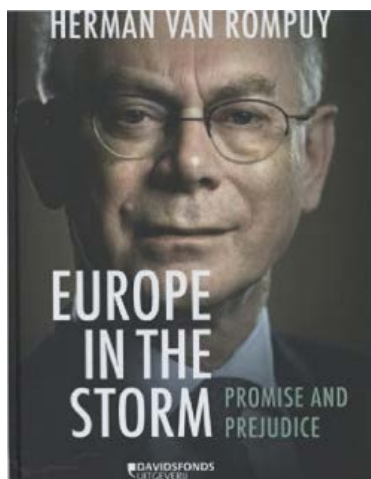
Presidency of the European Council

Selected highlights



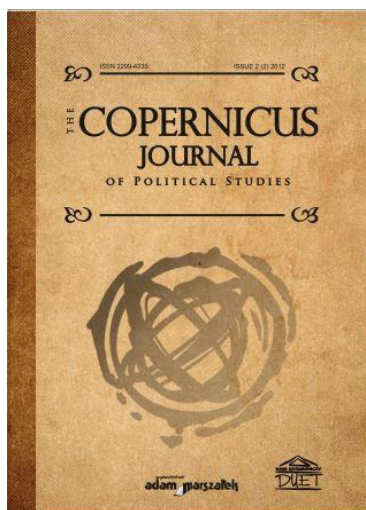
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Ce recueil contient une sélection des grands discours européens prononcés par Herman Van Rompuy pendant ses deux mandats à la Présidence du Conseil européen (2009-2014).



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Herman Van Rompuy saw most of his energy as President of the European Council absorbed by the financial crisis in the eurozone. This essay draws on his five years in the European Union's highest political office to shed light on history as it is made. The principal contact in Brussels of Merkel, Sarkozy, Cameron and their peers, he shares his experience of how European leaders tamed the financial storm and saved the euro, bringing unique insight into what held the Union together at a moment of truth - and what could yet make it unravel. Van Rompuy also addresses Europe's role in a changing world, as well as the expectations of Europeans. How to win back jobs and prosperity on our continent? How to convince citizens, at a time of public disenchantment, that working together will secure their countries a better future? And what place for the United Kingdom in a European Union with the euro as new core?



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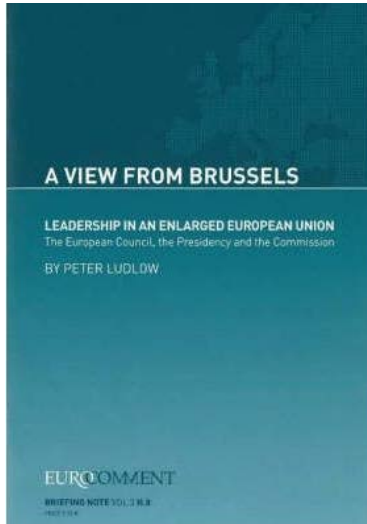
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Relations with the Council of the EU, with other EU institutions and civil society

Selected highlights



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Peter Ludlow's briefing note deals with the structure of leadership in the European Union. As Jean Monnet observed, 'nothing is possible without men, nothing is lasting without institutions'. During the past thirty or forty years, the EU has developed a remarkably effective system of collective leadership in and through the European Council which has continued to facilitate the integration process, despite radical changes in the size and character of the EU itself, and the emergence of a generation of leaders whose most prominent figures bear little comparison with their predecessors. The first two sections of the paper analyse how and why the system emerged and flourished. Representing as its members do both the peoples and states of the European Union, the European Council's legitimacy is not in question. To be as effective in the future as it has been in the past, it must however become more accountable to those in a position to scrutinise, and if necessary discipline its members. This means in the first instance national parliaments and citizens rather than the European Parliament.

EL CONSEJO EUROPEO Y SUS RELACIONES CON LAS DEMÁS INSTITUCIONES DE LA UNIÓN

Antonio Calonge Velázquez
Profesor Titular de Derecho Administrativo, Universidad de Valladolid

SUMARIO: I. Introducción. II. De las relaciones interinstitucionales a la consideración de institución. Institución de su composición y competencias. III. Las competencias en relación con las demás instituciones. IV. Composición: las nuevas figuras y su influencia. 1. El Presidente del Consejo Europeo. 2. El Alto Representante de la Unión para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad. V. Algunas conclusiones, pero pocas y provisionales.

I. INTRODUCCIÓN

Constituye ya un lugar común en la doctrina científica afirmar que el Tratado de Lisboa, como ya lo hiciera antes el más reciente Tratado por el que se instituyó una Constitución para Europa (en adelante, Tratado constitucional¹), no ha introducido modificaciones sustanciales en el sistema institucional que conocemos desde que se pergeñara en los Tratados fundacionales de París y, sobre todo, de Roma de la década de los cincuenta y las posteriores modificaciones que ha experimentado².

¹ Sobre la Constitución Europea *vis*, en general, Comentarios a la Constitución, 3 Libros, Enrique Álvarez Cienzo y Vicente Casado Moya, directores, Comelli Jurídica, Consejo de la Generalitat Valenciana (Tratado de la Unión, Valencia 2004), y, mucho más resumido, Marcos Martín, *Asesor, La Constitución Europea*, Iustel, Madrid, 2005.

² Melián Pardo, *El Tratado de Lisboa: el sistema institucional de la Unión Europea*, El Consejo Europeo y el Consejo de la Unión, *Revista de Derecho Comunitario*, Coker, Madrid, 2009, con razón escribe: «... y por lo que se refiere al ámbito institucional el Tratado de Lisboa aporta -como hacía el Tratado Constitucional- pocas novedades en el fondo», p. 138.

Calonge Velázquez, Antonio : *El Consejo Europeo y sus relaciones con las demás instituciones de la Unión*. In: Revista de Derecho de la Unión Europea. 2010, n. 18, p. 103-120.

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Una de las novedades institucionales introducidas en el Tratado de Lisboa es el otorgamiento del carácter de Institución fundamental de la Unión al Consejo Europeo o, dicho en otros términos, su introducción en el marco institucional de la Unión Europea. Este artículo analiza si esta decisión del legislador europeo originario ha sido un mero reconocimiento de la realidad, esto es, ha elevado a Derecho originario lo que la opinión pública y los 'mass media' tenían ya como cierto o, por el contrario, esta decisión tiene más efectos y de mayor profundidad hasta el punto de que podamos concluir que se ha producido un rediseño de las instituciones de la Unión y, como consecuencia, un avance del principio de intergubernamentalidad para compensar los avances sensibles del principio de supranacionalidad.



Hauge, Hanna-Lisa : *Wer regiert? : Der Europäische Rat und die Europäische Kommission in der institutionellen Architektur der EU*. In: *Gesellschaft. Wirtschaft. Politik*. 2014, n. 1, p. 37-50.
Shelfmark: 90088/J

Ob EU-Gipfel, Euro-Gipfel oder Sondergipfel: es scheint, als eilten die Staats- und Regierungschefs der EU-Mitgliedstaaten von einem Treffen in Brüssel zum nächsten. Unter den Bedingungen der Krise – nicht zuletzt durch enormen Zeitdruck geprägt – verlagern sich viele Entscheidungen auf die höchste politische Ebene. Der Europäische Rat nimmt insbesondere seit Beginn der Wirtschafts- und Finanzkrise eine Schlüsselrolle in der EU-Architektur ein. Hier wird untersucht, welche Auswirkungen dies für die interinstitutionellen Beziehungen zur oftmals als „Exekutive“ der EU bezeichneten Europäischen Kommission hat.

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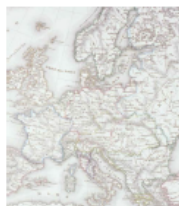
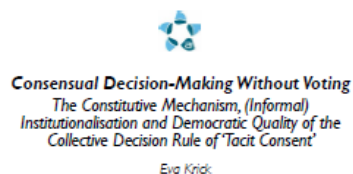
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Organisation and internal rules

Selected highlights



ARENA Working Paper 3
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Krick, Eva : *Consensual decision-making without voting : the constitutive mechanism, (informal) institutionalisation and democratic quality of the collective decision rule of "tacit consent"*. 2015.

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Building on theories of decision-making, deliberation, conversation and institutionalism and with reference to empirical cases from various different settings in international and domestic politics, the paper depicts the constitutive mechanism of this decision rule and spells out the mode's institutional, though usually informal nature as well as its enforcement via social norms. On these grounds the democratic quality of the decision mode is discussed. It is argued that consensual decisions taken by tacit consent differ substantially from unanimous votes and that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the veto option in these procedures is in fact in many ways constricted and very often de facto deactivated. It is shown that in normative terms, this decision rule is by no means superior to voting mechanisms, but suffers from power asymmetries and opacity, first and foremost. Widely known examples of its application in 'High Politics' are the Council of the European Union, the European Council or the World Trade Organisation, where decisions are made 'consensually', while voting is avoided.



Palonen, Kari : *Second chamber, 'congress of ambassadors' or federal presidency : parliamentary and non-parliamentary aspects in the European Council's rules of procedure*. In: *Parliaments, estates and representation*. 2015, Online Version of Record published before inclusion in an issue.

Shelfmark: 90103/J

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This article discusses the role and competencies of the European Council, using procedural commentaries, parliamentary rhetoric, conceptual history and political regime analysis. This study is a textual analysis, based on the 2009 Lisbon Treaty and especially on the European Council's rules of procedure. It is suggested that the ongoing challenges in power relationships between the EU institutions also lead to interesting theoretical and conceptual moves. From this perspective the authors discuss possibilities to extend the conceptual apparatus of parliamentary studies to such quasi-parliamentary institutions focusing especially on the European Council.

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Politics and deliberations in the European Council

Selected highlights

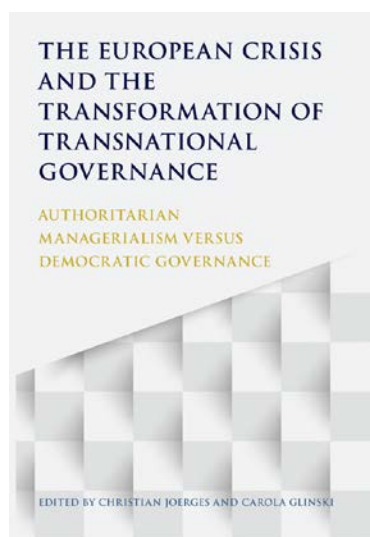


Tallberg, Jonas : *Bargaining power in the European Council*. In: Journal of Common Market studies. jui 2008, v. 46, n. 3, p. 685-708.

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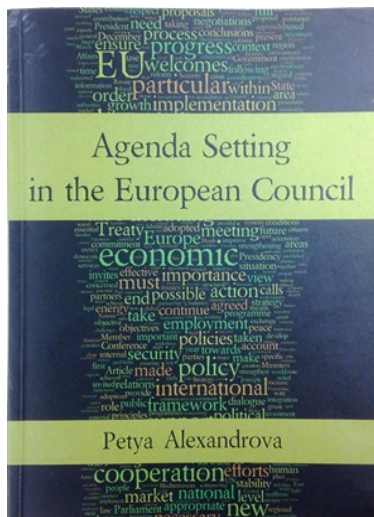
Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-5965.2008.00798.x>

This paper explores the sources of bargaining power in the European Council. What resources grant national executives influence in summit negotiations? Why are some heads of government more influential than others? Ultimately, it is a question of interpreting the outcomes of European Council negotiations. The paper addresses negotiation dynamics inside the European Council, draws explicitly on general theories of negotiation and decision-making including alternative sources of bargaining power, and it synthesizes and presents a set of elite testimonies on bargaining power in the European Council.



Deters, Henning : *Deliberative supranationalism in the Euro crisis? : The European Central Bank and the European Council in times of conflict*. In: European crisis and the transformation of transnational governance : authoritarian managerialism versus democratic governance. 2014, p. 245-271.

The debate on law, governance and constitutionalism beyond the state is confronted with new challenges. In the EU, confidence in democratic transnational governance has been shaken by the authoritarian and unsocial practices of crisis management. This book, which builds upon many years of close co-operation between its contributors, seeks to promote a viable interdisciplinary alternative to these developments. 'Conflicts-law constitutionalism' is a concept of transnational governance which derives democratic legitimacy from the supranational control of the external impact of national decision-making, on the one hand, and the co-operative responses to problem interdependencies on the other. The first section of the book contrasts Europe's new modes of economic governance crisis management with the conditionality of international investments, and reflects upon the communalities and differences between emergency Europe and global exceptionalism. Subsequent sections substantiate the problem of executive and technocratic rule, explore conflict constellations of prime importance in the fields of environmental and labour law, and discuss the impact and limits of liberalisation strategies. Throughout the book, European and transnational developments are compared and evaluated.



Petrova, Petya Alexandrova : *Agenda setting in the European Council*. [Netherlands] : Faculty Campus the Hague, Leiden University, 2014.
Shelfmark: 101402

This study presents an analysis of the European Council's agenda in the five-year period under Herman Van Rompuy's Presidency, where between December 2009 and November 2014 a total of 35 summits took place, five of which were informal and another five extraordinary. This extensive level of summitry continued a trend which had begun several years earlier, and offered increased opportunities to address sensitive issues and focusing on current events. It ensured relative stability with respect to the annual output of the European Council as measured via its conclusions.

The most prominent topics on the agenda were macroeconomics, foreign policy, and business and finance. While the first two have always been substantially addressed, the latter is an exception, clearly brought about by the global financial crisis and the need to find solutions to its negative effects on the EU. The crisis also enhanced attention to macroeconomics – a domain which was even more prominent than usual. Meanwhile this had an impact on other areas, either by causing a spill-over in attention (e.g. on employment) or constraining the leeway for attention to other topics, even foreign policy.

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Dinan, Desmond : *Institutions and governance : saving the Lisbon treaty. An Irish solution to a European problem*. In: Journal of common market studies. 2009, v. 47, suppl. 1, p. 113-132.
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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

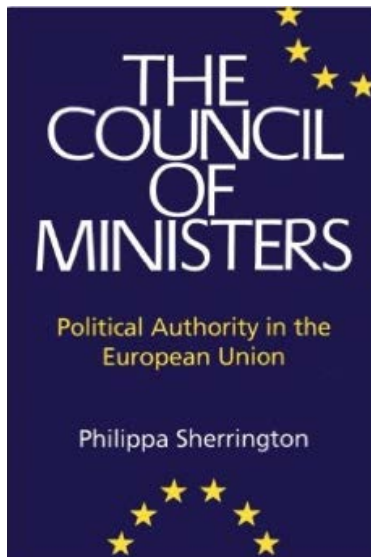
History of the Council of the European Union

Selected highlights



D'Aniello, Cesira : *Les sources documentaires et les Archives au secrétariat général du Conseil*. In: *Les institutions européennes font leur histoire : regards croisés soixante ans après le traité de Paris*. 2012, p. 189-195.

Prenant pour objet les enjeux de mémoire au sein des institutions européennes, cet ouvrage met au centre de l'analyse la pratique encore peu interrogée de l'auto-histoire ou de la rétrospection institutionnelle. Au-delà du débat sur une forme d'historiographie officielle, les contributions entendent comprendre, dans une perspective comparative avec d'autres champs historiques, ce que signifie écrire l'histoire d'institutions pour elles-mêmes. En revenant sur les conditions méthodologiques de réalisation et, en particulier, sur le dialogue entre archives orales et écrites, elles révèlent une pluralité de pratiques et de rapports à l'histoire. Issu de la journée d'études du Pôle européen d'administration publique (PEAP) de Strasbourg, tenue le 18 avril 2011 à l'occasion du 60e anniversaire du traité de Paris (18 avril 1951), cet ouvrage propose de faire dialoguer histoire et prospective, en s'interrogeant sur l'avenir des institutions européennes et sur la postérité du traité les fondant.



Sherrington, Philippa : *The Council of ministers : political authority in the European Union*. London; New York, N. Y. : Pinter, 2000.

Shelfmark: 69017

This book provides an analysis of the Council of Ministers, making a contribution to the debate on power and legitimacy in the European Union. Philippa Sherrington attended sessions of the Council of Ministers and conducted detailed interviews with key European officials of the main institutions, and with national ministers. She examined the internal operation of the Council, its relationship with other European Union institutions and the external factors affecting its decision-making role. The book provides a detailed account of the way in which business is really conducted in this according to the author 'still most secret of institutions', demonstrating that the Council of Ministers remains the ultimate decision-maker in the European Union.



Snoeijs, René : *De Raden van Ministers in de Europese integratie*. 1965.

Shelfmark: CEU.A 1965 sno

Verhandeling van 1965: "Vroeg of laat bevinden de volkeren alsook de individuen zich in een toestand waarin zij risico's moeten nemen. Hier kunnen we het gezegde van Pascal aanhalen: "Il faut parier". Dat hebben de Europese landen ook gedaan en telkens wanneer ze zich onderling in een organisatie verenigden. Door de oprichting van al deze instellingen namen de contracterende partijen risico's, de ene keer al meer dan de andere. Hierdoor stond men meerdere of mindere bevoegdheden aan deze organisaties af. Zo kunnen we tot besluit de raden van ministers in enkele opzichten met elkaar vergelijken en nagaan welke regelen ze al dan niet gemeenschappelijk hebben."

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Shelfmark: 100869

Palmstorfer, Rainer : *The reverse majority voting under the "six-pack" : a bad turn for the Union?* In: *European law journal*. 2014, v. 20, n. 2, p. 186-203.

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Sohn, Klaus-Dieter : *Die neuen Mehrheitsregeln im Rat ab 1. November 2014 : weniger demokratisch und weniger effizient?* 2014.

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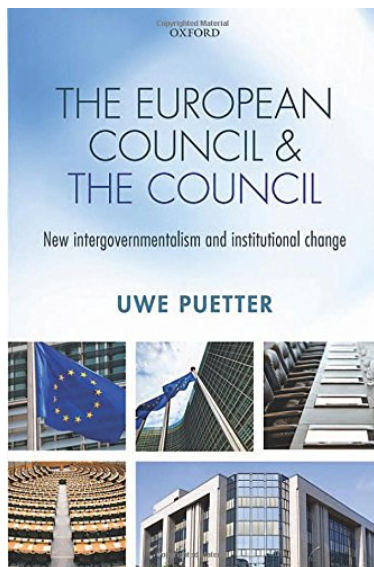
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Role of the Council of the European Union

Selected highlights



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Puetter, Professor in Public Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, argues that the European Council has obtained a leading role in policy-making in all new areas of EU activity. It sets the main policy objectives and reserves the right to finalize decisions that are considered to have fundamental repercussions on domestic policy-making. The meetings of the heads of state and government have become the focal point of EU politics. Member states have repeatedly rejected new major transfers of ultimate decision-making powers to the supranational level. Yet there seem to be no signs of integration fatigue. Decentralised political authority requires a constant process of consensus generation among member state governments and the core institutions, so as to bring national-level legislative and executive decisions in tune with commonly agreed EU objectives. Puetter concludes that the Council spends more time on non-legislative decision-making and intergovernmental policy debate than ever before.

Thomas Eble

Der Rat der Europäischen Union

Die Zusammensetzung und Funktion des Rates der Europäischen Union und Abgrenzung zum Europäischen Rat

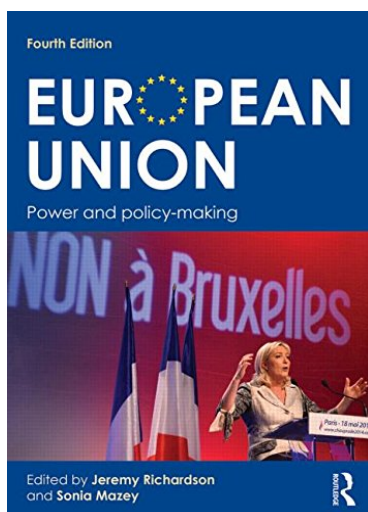
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Im Grunde ist der Rat der Europäischen Union eine äusserst komplizierte Verhandlungsmaschinerie im vertraglichen und institutionellen Gerüst der Europäischen Union. Beeindruckend ist dabei, dass die Vertreter von 27 Regierungen mit unterschiedlichen politischen und nationalen Interessen eine Einigung über ein so breites Spektrum an politischen Fragen erzielen können. Rechtlich gibt es nur den einen Rat der Europäischen Union. Dieser tagt jedoch je nach behandelte Materie in unterschiedlichen Formationen.



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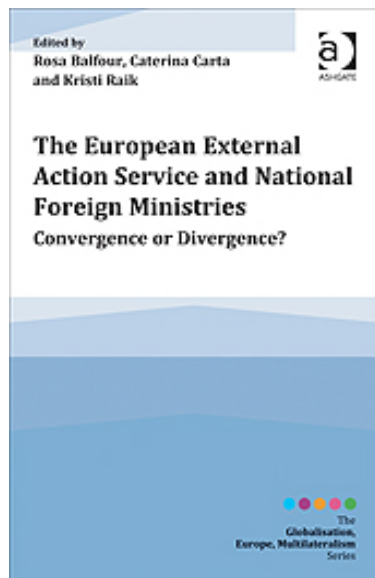
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Common Foreign and Security Policy

Selected highlights



The European External Action Service and national foreign ministries: convergence or divergence? Farnham: Ashgate, 2015.

Shelfmark: 101929

Based on empirical work by a cross-European group of researchers, this book assesses the impact of the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the national foreign policy-making processes and institutions of the EU member states. As such, the contributions cover both the involvement of the national diplomatic and foreign policy actors in shaping the outlook of the EEAS and its mission, as well as the changes (or not) it has produced for those actors of the member states. The analysis draws in theoretical frameworks from Europeanization and socialization, but also from intergovernmental frameworks of policy-making within the European Union.



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The two new key positions created by the Treaty of Lisbon, President of the Council and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, were filled, respectively, by Belgium's former Prime Minister, Herman van Rompuy, and the UK's Catherine Ashton. This article examines the process by which these appointments were made and assesses the performance of the post holders during the first eighteen months of their tenure. It asks what could reasonably have been expected of these two leaders in a context where Member States continue to exercise power and influence alongside rather than via the European Union and in which major events - the sovereign debt crisis and the Arab spring - have challenged the incumbents to stamp their mark on Europe's position in the world. It concludes that Van Rompuy has performed relatively satisfactorily, whereas Ashton is widely perceived to have failed in making her mark.



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As the financial crisis recedes and the European Union regains a measure of internal stability, pressure in Europe's neighbourhood is on the rise. The Ukraine crisis and turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa have elevated foreign policy to the top of the EU's agenda. Whether the EU can make its external action more effective will depend in large part on institutional decisions made in 2014 — the selection of a new leadership team and the reorganization of the European Commission.

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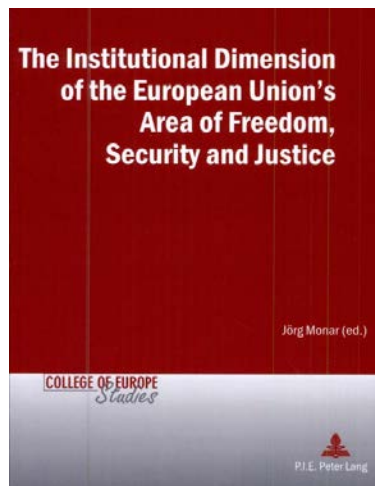
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Justice and Home Affairs

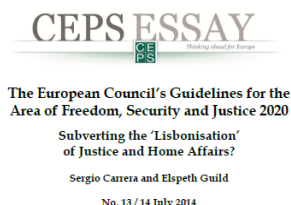
Selected highlights



The institutional dimension of the European Union's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Brussels : P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2010.

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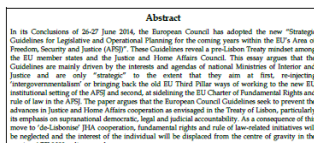
Since the Treaty of Amsterdam the European Union's 'Area of freedom, security and justice' (AFSJ) has become one of the most dynamic and fastest expanding European policy-making domains. With objectives such as enhanced internal security, a better management of migration challenges and improved access to justice the AFSJ addresses some fundamental concerns of European citizens. The institutions of the Union have to deliver on these objectives – and this book provides an analysis of how they have reacted and adapted to the specific challenges of the construction of the AFSJ. It covers all of the major Union institutions as well as the special agencies set up for police, judicial and border cooperation purposes.



Carrera, Sergio : *The European Council's guidelines for the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice 2020 : subverting the 'Lisbonisation' of justice and home affairs?* 2014.

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This essay argues that the European Council's guidelines for the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice 2020 are mainly driven by the interests and agendas of national Ministries of Interior and Justice and are only 'strategic' insofar as they aim, first, to re-inject intergovernmentalism into the new EU institutional setting of the AFSJ and second, to sideline the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and rule of law in the AFSJ. The paper also argues that the European Council Guidelines seek to prevent the advances in Justice and Home Affairs cooperation envisaged in the Treaty of Lisbon, particularly its emphasis on supranational democratic, legal and judicial accountability. As a consequence of this move to 'de-Lisbonise' JHA cooperation, fundamental rights and rule-of-law-related initiatives will be neglected and the interest of the individual will be displaced from the centre of gravity in the coming AFSJ policy agenda.

Sergio Carrera is Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Justice and Home Affairs section at CEPS. Elspeth Guild is Senior Associate Fellow at CEPS and Jean Monnet Professor at Jermans, Radboud University, Nijmegen and Queen Mary, University of London.

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Rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union

Selected highlights



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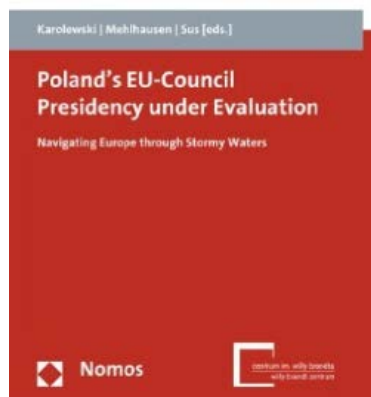
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How to manage a successful Council presidency continues to be a subject for debate. The literature has come a long way in identifying the roles and tasks of the presidencies. This paper focuses on how presidencies can effectively manage internal Council debates. The authors suggest a three-step mechanism that links performance to success. They subsequently perform a process tracing analysis of five Council presidencies and assess their relative performance in the EU's Balkan enlargement policies. The authors argue that success depends on the fit between the Chair's and the Council's consecutive moves, in which the former has a first mover disadvantage. This explains why it has proven so difficult for presidencies to fulfil the roles that, with hindsight, were required.

German and European Studies of the Willy Brandt Center
at the Wrocław University

11

Poland's EU-Council presidency under evaluation : navigating Europe through stormy waters. Baden-Baden : Nomos, 2014.
Shelfmark: 100597



The volume studies the Polish term as a crucial example of the rotating EU Council Presidency after the Lisbon Treaty. By covering all relevant policy fields, this in-depth analysis of the arguably most ambitious Presidency since the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty provides a balanced and differentiated evaluation of the profile of the reformed EU Council Presidency.

The volume embarks on the analysis by relating to three main aspects of rotating Presidencies. First, the introduction systematizes the major functions of the rotating Presidency. Against this background, the individual chapters analyze the Polish term. Second, the authors address the tension between the formal neutrality expectation and the tempting opportunity for the country holding the Presidency to foster its national interests through the informal impact on the policies formulated, decided upon and implemented during the Presidency. Third, the volume adopts a contingency approach by distinguishing between endogenous and exogenous variables that may affect the outcome and success of the EU Council Presidency.

Beyond the Telemachus complex: courses, discourses and the 2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union*

MAURIZIO CARBONE
University of Gdansk

*Our generation has the duty of rediscovering itself as Telemachus and being war-
the heirs of the (European Union's) founding fathers*
(Matteo Renzi, Strasbourg, 2 July 2014)

Introduction

When Matteo Renzi appeared for the first time in the European Parliament in July 2014, he did not sound like Italy's Prime Minister presenting the priorities of the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 July–31 December 2014), but like someone who was proposing a new vision for a different Europe. In a speech loaded with passion and literary allusions, before an attentive audience, he urged Europe to "find its soul again" and invited "the current generation to rediscover itself as Telemachus", taking into account the lessons of the founding fathers while attempting to navigate autonomously.¹ Considering his ambitious rhetorical agenda at home and the extraordinary performance of his Partito Democratico (Democratic Party, PD) at the May 2014 European elections, he raised hopes significantly, in spite of some potential caveats: first, about the transferability of his leadership style to the European context; second, about what a post-Lisbon Treaty rotating presidency could actually achieve in six months. In fact, this contribution demonstrates that the rather high expectations were largely unjust: the 2014 Italian presidency may have at best contributed to partially changing the discourse, but it failed to alter the course of the European Union. Renzi's assertiveness produced results at home, at least in terms of popular support, but did not have the same effect at the EU level, where his inexperience showed on many occasions and even backfired.

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When Matteo Renzi appeared for the first time in the European Parliament in July 2014, he did not sound like Italy's Prime Minister presenting the priorities of the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 July–31 December 2014), but like someone who was proposing a new vision for a different Europe. This article seeks to demonstrate that the rather high expectations raised were largely unmet: the 2014 Italian presidency may have at best contributed to partially changing the discourse, but it failed to alter the course of the European Union. Renzi's assertiveness produced results at home, at least in terms of popular support, but did not have the same effect at the EU level, where his inexperience showed on many occasions and even backfired.

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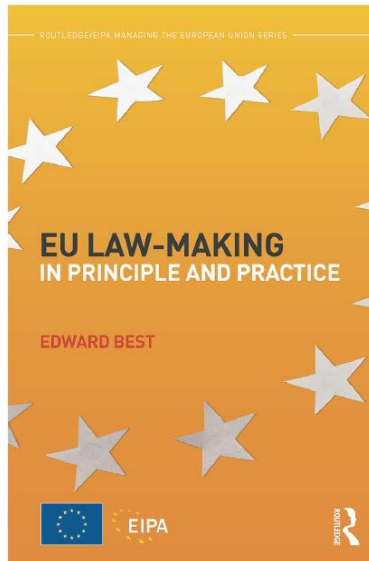
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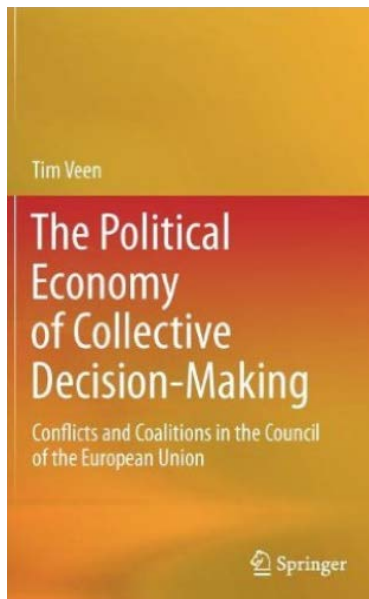
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This book offers a coherent overview of how particular pieces of EU law are produced and shows how they are adopted, from start to finish, resulting in an account of the process which is of both practical and academic interest. The title presents a holistic view of EU law-making using an adapted 'policy cycle', giving a concise account of the principles and practices involved in policy initiation, legislative decision-making, and delegated and implementing acts, as well as considering EU law-making in the perspective of good governance. It also includes many procedural details, as well as illustrative examples.



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The Council of the European Union is the institutional heart of EU policy-making. But 'who gets what, when and how' in the Council? What are the dimensions of political conflict, and which countries form coalitions in the intense negotiations to achieve their desired policy outcomes? Focussing on collective decision-making in the Council between 1998 and 2007, this book provides a comprehensive account of these issues that lie at the heart of political accountability and legitimacy in the European Union. Based on a novel dataset of estimates of government policy positions, salience and power in influencing deliberations, an explanatory model approximating the Nash-Bargaining solution is employed to predict the policy outcomes on ten policy domains of central importance to this institution. The book's analyses comprise investigations into the determinants of decision-making success, the architecture of the political space and the governments' coalition behaviour.



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Why does the Council of the European Union continue to function without apparent problems, despite the increase in the number and heterogeneity of its members brought about by the Eastern enlargement? The authors argue that the reason why the Council has not become paralysed lies in the increased delegation of its agenda load from the ministerial meetings downwards to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper). They assess their argument on the basis of quantitative analysis of the amount of the so-called A-points (decided by Coreper) and B-points (decided by ministers) on the Council agenda in the years 2000 through 2007. Studying the delegation mechanism deeper, the authors argue that two design features of Coreper - its permanent nature and its broad scope of agenda coverage - enabled the delegation from ministerial meetings to take place and thus helped the Council cope with the larger and more heterogeneous membership.

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Relations with the European Council, with the Member States, with other EU institutions and civil society

Selected highlights

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The Council, the European Parliament, and the paradox of inter-institutional cooperation

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Abstract: Decision-making between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament is characterized by a paradox. On the one hand, there is a high potential for inter-institutional conflict. Historically, the EP and the Council have been opponents in the struggle for power. In addition, both institutions can be said to fulfill different representational roles within the political system of the EU, with the Council representing the member states and the Parliament representing the citizens. Furthermore, agreement between the two is complicated by decision rules posing high thresholds for agreement and actors with often diverging preferences. On the other hand, in day-to-day policy-making, the Council and the European Parliament display a high level of consensus and decision-making efficiency. Most legislation is decided in first reading, and early agreements provide a shortcut for cumbersome inter-institutional negotiations. To shed light on this paradox, we conceptualize the mechanisms and dynamics underlying inter-institutional cooperation and conflict by taking recourse to factors derived from historical, sociological and rational choice institutionalisms. We argue that the same logics which account for conflict also contain the explanation for cooperation. Furthermore, we demonstrate that each of the theoretical approaches is particularly well suited to highlight a certain aspect of the paradox.

Keywords: Council of Ministers, European Parliament, institutionalism, political science.

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Decision-making between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament is characterized by a paradox. On the one hand, there is a high potential for inter-institutional conflict. Historically, the EP and the Council have been opponents in the struggle for power. In addition, both institutions can be said to fulfill different representational roles within the political system of the EU, with the Council representing the member states and the Parliament representing the citizens. Furthermore, agreement between the two is complicated by decision rules posing high thresholds for agreement and actors with often diverging preferences. On the other hand, in day-to-day policy-making, the Council and the European Parliament display a high level of consensus and decision-making efficiency. Most legislation is decided in first reading, and early agreements provide a shortcut for cumbersome inter-institutional negotiations. To shed light on this paradox, the authors conceptualize the mechanisms and dynamics underlying inter-institutional cooperation and conflict by taking recourse to factors derived from historical, sociological and rational choice institutionalisms. They argue that the same logics which account for conflict also contain the explanation for cooperation.



The culture of trilogues

Christilla Roederer-Ryning & Justin Greenwood

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There is little knowledge about the informal trilogues that play a pivotal role in almost 90 per cent of European Union legislation. This article maps out previously uncharted practices and explores their role in constituting the Parliament and Council as legislators. It proceeds by taking stock of the knowledge that actors in Parliament, the Council and the Commission have acquired and use to make sense of, and act in, trilogues. Trilogues today are underpinned by norms, standard operating procedures and practices linking formal and informal institutions. They have imparted Parliament with a sharpened consciousness of its role and identity as a 'normal' parliament, while leaving the Council frustrated and less confident. Parliament has seen in norms of public accountability a means to develop leverage over the Council.

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Politics and negotiations in the Council of the European Union

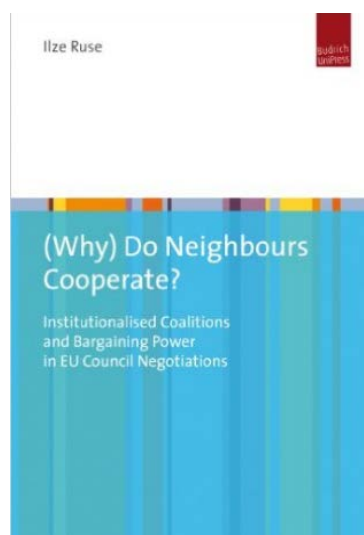
Selected highlights



Johansson, Markus : *Negotiations as usual : putting domestic constraints on the table in the Council of the European Union*. Göteborg : University of Gothenburg, 2015.

Shelfmark: CEU.H 2015 joh

The argument developed in this thesis is that negotiations in the Council of the European Union cannot be understood in isolation from the domestic politics of the member states. Building on the logic of Robert Putnam's two-level game theory, and the fact that negotiated EU agreements need to gain support from vital parts of the governments' domestic constituencies, government negotiators are constrained by their domestic political actors. This is part of the democratic political system in which governments should be responsive to the wills of their domestic constituency. Apart from tying the hands of the negotiators, it has often been suggested that these domestic constraints should make negotiators more influential in negotiations, since it would prevent them from being pushed around and agreeing to unfavourable deals.



Ruse, Ilze : *(Why) do neighbours cooperate? : Institutionalised coalitions and bargaining power in EU Council negotiations*. Berlin : Budrich UniPress, 2013.

Shelfmark: CEU.F 2013 rus

This book highlights the effects of institutionalized territorially constituted coalitions in EU Council negotiations by focusing on the Nordic-Baltic cooperation throughout three case studies. The main argument is that institutionalized coalitions bestow their rationally-acting members with a bargaining advantage, even if they cannot generate enough voting weight to reach voting thresholds. Cooperation within institutionalized coalitions enhances the bargaining power of its participants through three mechanisms: an exchange of information, which counterbalances the asymmetries in information distribution in the pre-negotiation stage; the pooling of expertise that allows the Member States to share resources and provides common argumentation for their positions; and the rhetorical action that gives more strength to normative justifications.

« Au Conseil de l'Union européenne, les décisions se prennent en général par consensus. Est-ce à dire que tous les pays sont à l'unisson ? En fait, les désaccords sont souvent occultés, la plupart des pays n'ayant pas insisté à rendre publiques leurs mises en minorité. Stéphanie Novak décrit les pratiques effectives que recouvre le consensus et rend compte de l'opacité qui préside à l'exercice commun des souverainetés. »

L'Union européenne est une communauté politique et pas seulement une organisation internationale, car ses États membres ont volontairement renoncé à leur souveraineté dans certains domaines de décision. Concrètement, cet abandon des souverainetés signifie l'obligation pour les États d'appliquer les directives et les règlements¹, même s'ils se sont opposés à leur adoption lors du vote. Toutefois, lorsque des mesures risquent d'être prises en dépit de l'opposition de certains qui se trouveraient par conséquent mis en minorité, les représentants des États recherchent apparemment le consensus pour qu'il n'y ait pas de perdants. Cependant, l'apparence consensuelle de la prise de décision recouvre des pratiques complexes dont le but réel n'est pas d'éviter les mises en minorité, mais de les dissimuler. L'objet de ce texte est d'expliquer comment et pourquoi les mises en minorité des États ne sont pas rendues publiques.

¹ Une directive dite « à l'un » mais les gouvernements nationaux sont libres de choisir le type de la norme en œuvre : un règlement est plus contraignant, car directement applicable dans les États membres.

Novak, Stéphanie : *La prise de décision au Conseil de l'Union Européenne : pratiques du vote et du consensus*. Paris : Dalloz, 2011.

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Les spécialistes s'accordent pour affirmer que 'le Conseil ne vote pas, il décide par consensus', mais il n'y a pas d'accord sur ce que désigne l'expression de décision par 'consensus'. Certains considèrent que le consensus est essentiellement un processus informel n'obéissant pas à une règle déterminée, d'autres pensent qu'il constitue une forme d'unanimité sans vote explicite, d'autres encore soutiennent qu'il reflète ce que les membres anticipent qu'il se passerait si un vote avait lieu. Stéphanie Novak en propose dans ce livre une analyse et une explication de son fonctionnement.

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Comitology

Selected highlights



How consensual is comitology?

R. Dehousse, A. Fernández Passarín & J. Plaza

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This contribution revisits the question of the alleged consensual and deliberative nature of comitology proceedings on new conceptual and empirical bases. On the conceptual plane, the authors argue that it is important to separate the analysis of decision-making from that of outcomes: the fact that committees generally end up ratifying Commission proposals does not mean the latter are never contested. Consensus and deliberation being closely related concepts, the authors propose to focus on dissent within committees, which they regard as an indicator of a non-deliberative process or an imperfect deliberation. Applying this approach to data from the comitology register, the authors show the existence of a sizeable rate of contestation in various fields, and offer a first analysis of the factors that may influence dissensus.



Negotiating the Post-Lisbon Comitology System: Institutional Battles over Delegated Decision-Making

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Abstract

The Lisbon Treaty represented a rare opportunity to redesign parliamentary control of the European Commission's delegated powers. The new Treaty distinguishes between delegated and implementing acts and specifies that comitology rules must be decided by a co-decision regulation. This necessitated a reform of the comitology system, which was decided in December 2010 after protracted inter-institutional negotiations. This article asks why the new control system took its final form. The negotiations as a game of control positions are analysed and the course of the negotiations is traced through documents and interviews. Support is found for the article's hypotheses, but it is also the case that events in some respects went further than expected.

Introduction

Ever since the 1960s, roughly two-thirds of all European Union (EU) directives, decisions and regulations have been executive acts, adopted by the Commission, which flesh out and apply European legislation (Brandsma, 2010; Van Schelleken, 2010). The Commission is therefore an important rule-maker, with executive powers delegated to it by the legislator. But it is not autonomous. Control of its delegated powers has relied on the comitology system: a system of Member State committees. Using the same voting weights as in the Council, they decide whether to approve the Commission's draft executive acts or to refer them to the Council for further scrutiny (Bergström, 2005; Blom-Hansen, 2011; Pollack, 2003, pp. 114-55).

The design of the comitology system is a deeply political matter since it specifies the Commission's executive autonomy. The system has evolved from the early 1960s and been through a number of changes over time. The Lisbon Treaty created an opportunity to create a new control system because its distinction between delegated acts (Article 290 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, or TFEU) and implementing acts (Article 291 TFEU) gave a new legal status to executive measures (Hofmann, 2009).

Following the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission proposed a new system for controlling delegated rule-making. The proposals introduced the future systems for Council and European Parliament (EP) control of delegated acts and Member State control of implementing acts. After protracted inter-institutional negotiations the new systems were decided in December 2010. In this article, we provide an intensive investigation of these negotiations in order to understand why the new control system took its final form. To answer this question, we use a rational choice perspective on institutional change to

Brandsma, Gijss Jan : *Negotiating the post-Lisbon comitology system : institutional battles over delegated decision-making.* In: Journal of common market studies. 2012, v. 50, n. 6, p. 939-957.

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Martínez Gutiérrez, Enrique : *La adopción de actos en el proceso de toma de decisiones comunitario : procedimientos legislativos y comitología*. In: El proceso decisorio comunitario : negociación, adopción y evaluación de decisiones en la Unión europea. 1995, p. 121-154.

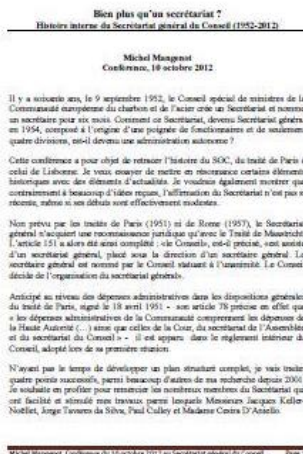
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Blumann, Claude : *La comitologie : l'exercice de la fonction exécutive dans la Communauté européenne*. In: From Luxembourg to Maastricht : institutional change in the European Community after the Single European Act. 1992, p. 89-108.

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL

History of the GSC

Selected highlights



Mangenot, Michel : *Bien plus qu'un secrétariat? : Histoire interne du Secrétariat général du Conseil (1952-2012)*. 2012.

Shelfmark: 30831/B

Available from: http://domus-docs.consilium.eu.int/DGF%20Library%20Collection/articles/mangenot_bien-plus-qu-un-secretariat_2012.pdf (Restricted access; document available on request from the Central Library)

Il y a soixante ans, le 9 septembre 1952, le Conseil spécial de ministres de la Communauté européenne du charbon et de l'acier crée un Secrétariat et nomme un secrétaire pour six mois. Comment ce Secrétariat, devenu Secrétariat général en 1954, composé à l'origine d'une poignée de fonctionnaires et de seulement quatre divisions, est-il devenu une administration autonome?

Contrairement à beaucoup d'idées reçues, l'affirmation du Secrétariat n'est pas si récente, même si ses débuts sont effectivement modestes. Non prévu par les traités de Paris (1951) ni de Rome (1957), le Secrétariat général n'acquiert une reconnaissance juridique qu'avec le Traité de Maastricht. L'article 151 a alors été ainsi complété : «le Conseil», est-il précisé, «est assisté d'un secrétaire général, placé sous la direction d'un secrétaire général. Le secrétaire général est nommé par le Conseil statuant à l'unanimité. Le Conseil décide de l'organisation du secrétariat général».



Christiansen, Thomas : *At a critical juncture? : Change and continuity in the institutional development of the Council Secretariat*. In: *West European politics*. 2008, v. 31, n. 4, p. 751-770.

Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01402380801906015>

This article provides a historical institutionalist perspective on the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers – an institution that has expanded significantly over the course of the integration process and whose role in the institutional politics of the EU has been recognised as significant. Charting the history of the institution, we demonstrate the way in which the original institutional design contributed to a particular trajectory which can be understood as a 'path-dependent' development. However, we also identify recent developments which can be seen as a break with the historical legacy of the Secretariat – an observation which raises the question as to whether the institution is at a critical juncture in its development. The article closes with an examination of the present and future challenges the Council Secretariat is facing at this time.

2014

Attali, Jean : *Europa : Conseil européen et Conseil de l'Union européenne : chronique d'un nouveau siège 2005-2013*. Brussels : CIVA, 2014.

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Shelfmark: dut 725 ATTA

Attali, Jean : *Europa : European Council and Council of the European Union : history of the new headquarters 2005-2013*. Brussels : CIVA, 2013.

Shelfmark: EC.A 2013 att

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2010

Mangenot, Michel : *The invention and transformation of a governmental body : the Council Secretariat*. In: *A political sociology of the European Union: reassessing constructivism*. 2010, p.46-67.

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Christiansen, Thomas : *At a critical juncture? : Change and continuity in the institutional development of the Council Secretariat*. In: *West European politics*. 2008, v. 31, n. 4, p. 751-770.

Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01402380801906015>

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Vanhoonacker, Sophie : *EU-Raadssecretariaat en Europees buitenlands beleid : méér dan een griffier*. In: *Internationale spectator*. 2006, v. 60, n. 12, p. 636-641.

Shelfmark: 30653/J

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Shelfmark: GSC.A 1990 gaz

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Role of the GSC

Selected highlights



Mangenot, Michel: *The invention and transformation of a governmental body: the Council Secretariat*. In: A political sociology of the European Union: reassessing constructivism. 2010, p.46-67.

The General Secretariat of the Council sheds light on the ambivalent nature of the Council: it is intrinsically an expression of state interests but it is simultaneously a Community institution. Whereas the Council is often presented as simply intergovernmental, the autor shows that the Secretariat has been the place where a shared government culture has developed - in fact more than within the Commission. Made up of European officials, the Secretariat exercises its role at all levels of the European decision-making process, from the lowest (working groups) to the highest (European Councils), and it is the European Union's main government structure.



Beach, Derek: *The unseen hand in treaty reform negotiations: the role and influence of the Council Secretariat*. In: Journal of European Public Policy. 11:3 June 2004: 408–439.

Available from:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/rjpp13501760410001100279>

The Council Secretariat is the unseen hand in treaty reform negotiations – highly influential but also overlooked. This article highlights the significance of this neglect, and more generally the problems with using crude either–or dichotomies on whether EU institutions matter. A leadership model is first developed that explains when we should expect EU institutions such as the Council Secretariat to matter vis-a`-vis governments. It is hypothesized that the context of the specific negotiation and the leadership strategies employed by EU institutions determines their level of influence over treaty reform outcomes. The negotiation of the Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice are then investigated. It is found that even the most intergovernmental bargaining forum in the EU is not a purely intergovernmental affair. Evidence is produced that shows that the Council Secretariat has played an influential role in recent treaty reform negotiations. While the Secretariat played a more marginal role in the 2000 IGC, and had only moderate influence over outcomes, the Council Secretariat was very influential in the 1996– 97 IGC owing to a combination of its high level of expertise, its reputation among governments of being a trusted assistant, its privileged institutional position, and its skilful use of pragmatic and behind-the-scenes instrumental leadership strategies.

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Jacqué, Jean-Paul : *Droit institutionnel de l'Union européenne*. Paris : Dalloz, 2009.

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Organisation of the GSC

Selected highlights



Christiansen, Thomas : Out of the shadows : the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers. In: The journal of legislative studies. 2002, Volume 8, Issue 4.

Shelfmark: 90004/J

Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13572330200870006>

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers is an oddity: while it lacks formal decision-making powers, its officials have still developed an important role in different areas of EU policy-making. To the extent to which the Council secretariat influences EU policymaking, it is a distinctly quiet influence. This makes the Council secretariat a very interesting case in this volume's analysis of 'unelected legislators': not only does the secretariat constitute a prime case of the 'unseen hand', but it is also a case of the 'hushed voice'. Rather than seeking the high profile exposure of media campaigns, frequent speeches and the like, the Council secretariat has relied on working in the background and giving direct advice to ministers, ambassadors and other member state representatives.

In the course of European integration during the 1990s and early 2000s the secretariat has gained a heightened role. Rather than being merely the object of reform, however, the Council secretariat is a subject in the on-going reform negotiations. The Council secretariat has moved out of the shadows to become a recognised player in the EU's legislative and treaty reform processes.

Journal of Public Affairs (2013)
Published online in Wiley Online Library
www.intellectbooks.com/DOI/10.1002/jpa.1455

Academic Paper

Media relations in the Council of the European Union: insights into the Council press officers' professional practices

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Department of Business Communication, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

Government communication plays a key role in democratic societies as it helps public understanding of government policies and issues, increases the transparency of government activities, and provides a platform for citizens to voice their views. In the EU, the media relations activities of the Council, the major institution in the communication system, are of great importance for monitoring the EU's much debated communication deficit and for enhancing public participation and support. This study seeks to establish a key stakeholder group in this regard by focusing on the media relations activities of the Council's press officers. Through a series of qualitative interviews, the study identifies the professional and political challenges that they face in the performance of their professional duties.

INTRODUCTION

European Union (EU) institutions' external communication play an important role in citizens' support for the EU and the European integration process (Christiansen, 2002). Several scholars (e.g. Mair, 1990; Sigmund, 2002) have pointed out that the increasing transfer of political power from European institutions to the EU without a corresponding increase in public discussion about the EU constitutes a major problem for popular support for the European integration process and the EU. The EU does not currently face a communication deficit that constitutes a barrier to public participation. Public participation and popular support not only are the dominant factors in the EU's success in the integration process (Sigmund, 2002), but also are needed if the EU wants to continue its integration process (Sigmund, 2002). The 'unseen hand' (Christiansen, 2002) of the EU institutions, activities and policies is a prerequisite for their support for

the EU policy and their participation in discussions of EU issues (Christiansen, 2002) and to create a solid support for the EU institutions' own provision of information about themselves and their activities. The nature of the information provided by the EU institutions is various: external stakeholders and the wider public are interested in the EU's role of great importance for monitoring the EU's much debated communication deficit and for enhancing public participation and support. This study seeks to establish a key stakeholder group in this regard by focusing on the media relations activities of the Council's press officers. Through a series of qualitative interviews, the study identifies the professional and political challenges that they face in the performance of their professional duties.

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E-mail: b.laursen@business.aau.dk

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Laursen, Bo : Media relations in the Council of the European Union : insights into the Council press officers' professional practices. In: Journal of public affairs. 2013, v. 13, n. 3, p. 230–238.

Shelfmark: 90078/J

Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jpa.1455>

Within the European Union (EU) polity, communication plays a crucial role for citizens' support for the European integration process. Despite the increasing relevance of communication about major activities of the EU, studies on the EU institutions' communications are scarce. Focusing on the media relations activities of the Council, this paper investigates the communication practices and roles of press officers working in the Council's General Secretariat as perceived by these government communicators themselves. Qualitative interviews with the press officers, analysis of Council documents, participation in their work processes and observations of their professional behaviour were used to establish the empirical basis of the study. The findings highlight the apolitical and reactive nature of these European civil servants' communication activities and identify some of the institutional and political challenges that they face in the performance of their professional duties.

2015

Naurin, Daniel : *The Councils of the EU : intergovernmental bargaining in a supranational polity*. In: *European union: power and policy-making*. 2015, p. 135-157.

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2012

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Relations with the Member States and their Permanent Representations, with other EU institutions and civil society

Selected highlights



Christiansen, Thomas : *Intra-institutional politics and inter-institutional relations in the EU : towards coherent governance*. In: Journal of European public policy. 2001, v. 8, n. 5, p. 747-769. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13501760110083491>

An examination of the evolution of, first, the internal politics of Commission and Council Secretariat and, second, of relations between these two institutions across a range of areas of EU governance leads to the identification of an apparent paradox: while intra-institutional politics are becoming increasingly fragmented, the relative coherence of inter-institutional relations in the EU is improving. The article offers a tentative explanation based on the expansion of EU institutions, the growing interconnectedness of EU policy processes and the strengthening of a 'supra-institutional' allegiance among EU officials. The increasing complexity of European governance means that policy-makers' knowledge of, and identification with, more specific policy environments - and thus the management of inter-institutional relations - is becoming relatively more important than their institutional identification.



Dijkstra, Hylke : *Commission versus Council Secretariat : an analysis of bureaucratic rivalry in European foreign policy*. In: European foreign affairs review. 2009, v. 14, n. 3, August, p. 431-450.

Shelfmark: 28616/J

The European Commission and the EU Council Secretariat support the Member States in the conduct of European foreign policy, yet they have not always been able to get along. This article gives an overview of their inter-institutional relations across history, foreign policy instruments (declarations, crisis management joint actions and representation) and regions. The main argument is that the relationship between both institutions is generally cooperative, but that tensions do arise in a limited number of cases where the roles of the Commission and the Council Secretariat are unclear, perceived to overlap or in competition. In these instances, they have generally found a modus vivendi and their inter-institutional relations have subsequently improved. Such informal arrangements do not address, however, the underlying structural problems - that the Council Secretariat challenges the Commission's political and informational role in the context of foreign policy.

2013

Laursen, Bo : *Media relations in the Council of the European Union : insights into the Council press officers' professional practices*. In: Journal of public affairs. 2013, v. 13, n. 3, p. 230-238.

Shelfmark: 90078/J

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